

## Wordwatch: The origins of words

by Merriam-Webster  
(KRT)

Q. I recently came across a word I have never heard before. What is an "encomium"? It sounds like something medical, but it didn't appear in such a context.

- P.K., Worcester, Mass.

A. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, defines "encomium" as "glowing and warmly enthusiastic praise." "Encomium" can also mean an expression of such praise. The word derives from Greek "enkomion," itself formed from the prefix "en-," meaning "in," and "komos," meaning "celebration."

There are several other words that mean a formal expression of praise. "Tribute" implies deeply felt praise conveyed either through words or through a significant act. "Panegyric" suggests an elaborate, often poetic compliment.

"Eulogy" applies to a prepared speech or writing extolling the virtues and services of a person. Finally, "citation" applies to the formal praise accompanying the mention of a person in a military dispatch or in awarding an honorary degree.

Q. Now that we've entered a new year and started using new calendars, I wonder if you could tell us anything about the origins of the names for the months of the year.

A. The earliest Roman calendar supposedly was introduced about 738 B.C. by Romulus, the legendary founder of Rome. The year consisted of 304 days and was divided into ten months, each month being the period between one full moon and the next. These Romans seemed to have ignored or at least left uncounted about two months during the winter. The year

began with the vernal equinox, which signaled the beginning of the growing season.

The first month was named "Martius" after Mars, originally a god of agriculture before becoming the god of war. "Martius" was taken into Old French as "march," which middle English borrowed as "March" at the beginning of the 13th century.

The second month was named "Aprilis," a word of unknown origin but with a folk etymology that goes back to the Roman scholar Varro (116-27 B.C.), who said it was likely formed from the verb "aperire," "to open," since this is the period when the buds of leaves and flowers begin to open. "Aprilis" became "avrill" in Old French and was borrowed into Middle English as "Averil," "Aperil," and finally "April."

The third month, "Maius," was probably named for the goddess Maia, the mother of Mercury by Jupiter. In Old French this name became "mai," which was taken into Middle English as "May."

"Junius," the fourth month, was probably named in honor of the goddess Juno. Old English used the form "Junius" for this month, which became "June" in the 14th century.

"Quintilis," the name of the fifth month, was formed from the adjective "quintus," meaning "fifth." In 44 B.C. the Roman senate renamed this month in honor of Julius Caesar, who was born in this month. Old English kept the Latin form "Julius," which eventually became "July" in late Middle English.

"Sextilis," the name of the sixth month, was appropriately formed from the adjective "sextus," meaning "sixth." In 8 B.C.,

the senate renamed this month "Augustus" in honor of Augustus Caesar, the first emperor of Rome. In Old English the Latin form was anglicized to "August."

"September," being the seventh month, was formed from "septem," meaning "seven." This name became "septembre" in Old French and then "September" in Middle English. Eventually the influence of Latin fixed the spelling as "September." In like manner, "October" was formed from "octo," meaning "eight," "November" from "novem," meaning "nine," and "December" from "decem," meaning "ten."

The second King of Rome, Numa Pompilius (715? - 673? B.C.), decided to fill in the two-month winter gap with "Januarius," which was derived from "Janus," the god of gates and later of beginnings, and "Februarius," so named because the "Februa," a feast of spiritual cleansing and expiation, took place during this period.

This calendar was basically a lunar reckoning that had become increasingly out of phase with the seasons. To correct this Julius Caesar, in 46 B.C. employed the astronomer Sosigenes to review the calendar and suggest ways of improving it. His suggestions included using the sun instead of the moon as the basis for reckoning, allowing a leap year, and moving the beginning of the year from March 1 to Jan. 1. Since January was now the first month, September, October, November, and December were no longer the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth months. However etymologically inappropriate these names had become, they were retained.

## Movie offers tips for the aspiring ladies' man

by Eric Edwards  
The Orlando Sentinel

The path that leads one to becoming a ladies' man is beset by perils. First a man must face the requisite learning curve in which every woman looks upon him as a bona fide clown. Then he is forced to make behavior-altering decisions that could have long-range effects on his ability to be truly happy.

Back in the days when we were fuzzy and innocent and dating was simple, throwing our hearts at passers-by was natural. Over time, however, we have learned that complete openness, while sounding like a good idea, may lead to more headaches than it is worth. So we start to wise up and think with our heads instead of our hearts — or whatever.

Since I look to Hollywood for all of life's answers, it is no surprise that a movie called "The Tao of Steve" (2000) struck me as the perfect lesson in how modifying attitudes is key to becoming successful with women.

This film, which applies the writings of the Chinese philosopher Lau Tzu to the art of picking up women, is not only an important lesson in how to go about being smooth, but also how not to lose yourself behind your slick, new facade.

The trick to prospering as a Don Juan, according to Tao, is to first eliminate desire. That's because the more you want to hook up with someone, the less likely it becomes that they will reciprocate. (Of course, I can't help but think that if we achieve this state of emotional disarmament, then what fun is to go after someone? We may end up reaching our goals, but

then don't we run the risk of not caring enough to enjoy them properly?)

Watching this film, I learned that people will pursue that which retreats from them. But the rub is that the men who are most "successful" at applying this philosophy are constantly running away from women who want them. It makes sense, doesn't it? After all, the major complaint most women have about men is that they're too good at disconnecting their emotions and retreating when faced with an honest opportunity to put those emotions to good use. Be honest, most men are more intimate with their fantasy football teams than they ever are with women.

And although men have no problem being physically intimate, they generally are unwilling to communicate on the level women want them to.

Of course men do not need to bear full responsibility for this debacle. The reason "The Tao of Steve" is effective is because women are looking for the sort of cool that is bred by detachment. It is positive reinforcement at its worst. If women respond to men who retreat when things get going, then men repeat that behavior.

And arriving at this coveted intimacy is no short journey when a person has been trained to share the least amount of emotional insight for fear of pushing other people away.

But still people get together, and from time to time even have rewarding relationships with each other. So there must be a middle ground out there somewhere where a woman is willing to accept a little less coolness at the outset, and a man willing to offer a degree more warmth later on.

## Through the Looking Glass

the weekly column that asks if there is intelligent life out there

by Mike Pingree  
KRT Campus  
BUT SATISFACTION ISN'T GUARANTEED

The first brothel for female customers in Leibstadt, Switzerland, took a very unconventional business approach from the beginning.

When men go to a house of ill repute, they pay their money up front before having their fun with the ladies. But the ladies were allowed to pay AFTER trysting with the male prostitutes.

As a result, they paid only what they thought the service was worth, and the establishment went bankrupt.

WOULD YOU LIKE THAT UNDER GLASS?

Conrad the peregrine falcon has returned to his perch in the sign atop the 18-story Hilton Hotel in Knoxville, Tenn., for the winter.

People on the streets below get their first hint that he is in residence when they see pigeon feathers floating to the ground indicating that Conrad has just had lunch.

**CAPTAIN RIBMAN** - Carrot Top  
by Sprengelmeyer & Davis

CH, BOY! ANOTHER COMMERCIAL WITH CARROT TOP!

WATCHING HIM IS NOTHING LIKE SCRAPING A MASSIVE CHEESE-GRATER OVER EXPOSED NERVES ON MY CROTCH!

I JUST WISH SOMEONE WOULD HARNESS HIS BRILLIANT TALENT BY PUTTING HIM IN A MOVIE WITH PAULY SHORE AND GILBERT GODFRIED!

**PAUL**  
BY BILLY O'KEEFE www.mirbilly.com

I DON'T THINK THAT'S REALLY AN OLYMPIC EVENT, PAUL.

YEAH, WELL, I'M NOT AN OLYMPIAN EITHER, SO GET THAT STICK OUT OF YOUR BUTT AND GET MOVING ABOUT IT.

### Crossword

ACROSS

- Shell-game item
- Humiliates
- Norwegian capital
- The whole of
- No-good-nik
- Lead balloon
- Hypocritical respect
- Phony
- Chow down
- Like nonbelievers
- Caroled
- Blast letters
- Team cheer
- Inarticulate comment
- Class writing
- Honorable
- Proof of authenticity
- Lena or Ken
- Peruke
- Pursuing
- Furnish, for a time
- Makassar Strait outlet
- Ford failure
- Hayworth film, "Miss Thompson"
- Earmark
- Boat propeller
- Payable
- In this place
- Downplay
- Knight's address
- Div'a's number
- Goodyear purchase
- Coarse seaweed
- Right now!
- Fall mo.
- of Man
- Pestered
- Holy smokes!

DOWN

- Buddy
- Lilly or Whitney
- 20-foot-long instruments
- Fence the foot, e.g.
- Cake of soap
- Favorable positions
- Infatuated
- Per person
- Haughty look
- Branches
- Louder
- Mischievous
- Norse god
- Oil cartel's letters
- Droop
- Charleston of "Chariots of Fire"
- Pilant
- Went along (with)
- Gin's partner
- Innovative
- Setting times
- Intensely hot
- Narrow and elongated
- Employ
- Home movie
- Composer Blake
- French born
- Terhune book
- Kiddle seal?
- Aired again
- Smack
- H.H. Munro in print
- Mineral deposits
- Stuff
- Information
- Luge
- High card
- Agile deer
- Word after Christmas

**Solutions**

A	O	N	O	E	D	V	N	E	T	S	I
A	O	N	O	L	I	V	E	D	E	R	E
E	M	I	L	I	T	V	O	E	V	I	R
H	I	S	T	V	O	E	J	I	O	S	
E	H	E	H	E	N	O	H	V	O		
O	V	I	E	I	D	V	S	T	E	S	O
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E	K	V	E	E	O	I	A	H	E	S	A
O	T	S	O	N	V	W	O	V	E	R	
O	T	S	O	N	S	V	E	R			

### Recipes for You!

#### Pork with celery

**Ingredients:**

- 2 1/2 lbs. Pork
- 3/4 cup Butter
- 1 chopped Onion
- 2 sliced Carrots and pepper Salt
- 1 bunch Celery
- 2 tablespoons Flour
- 2 Egg Yolks
- 1-2 Lemon chopped Parsley

Cut meat into 5-6 portions. Put into a saucepan with 1/2 cup of butter, onion, carrots, salt and pepper; add 4 cups boiling water, cover and cook for 1 1/2 hours.

Peel the strings from stalks, using a vegetable peeler. Cut each stalk lengthwise, then crosswise into 2-inch pieces. Parboil for 3 minutes, drain and cook with the meat. Cover and cook for 30 minutes. Just before serving, prepare egg and lemon sauce. Sprinkle with parsley and serve hot.

**We want your recipes!**  
Send your submissions to [behrcoll5@aol.com](mailto:behrcoll5@aol.com).

**Don't cop out and raid your mom's recipe box. We want recipes from college students, for college students!**

### DITHERED TWITS

by Stan Waling

Have any ideas for the Features Page? Is there something you like or dislike? Let us know! We give a darn about what you think! E-mail us at [Behrcoll5@aol.com](mailto:Behrcoll5@aol.com) for suggestions or comments.