

**THE BLOG**

Sincere Idiot, Persistent Ass, Incompetent President

By Marty Kaplan

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“Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of George W. Bush. Tell me just the ONE best word that describes him.”

That question - asked periodically by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press [pdf] - is always a polling goldmine. The newest results, just out, do not disappoint.

Incompetent comes in first, just as it topped the list in March 2006. But a year ago, **Good** held the number two spot; this time, it's **Arrogant**.

In February and May 2004, and February 2005, the top two were positive: **Honest** and **Fair**, or **Honest** and **Good**. But by July 2005, **Incompetent** had dislodged **Good**, and today, you have to go down to third and fourth place to find an upbeat adjective.

In previous polls, **Christian** always made the list, but this time, not one of the 740 respondents offered the word.

Idiot has gone up steadily through the years, while **Ass** has held its own.

Stubborn and **Steadfast** are neck and neck.

Dumb was not offered this year, but if you add the **Ignorants** and the **Idiots** to the **Stupids** and the **Confuseds**, you're approaching ten times the **Greats**.

Unaccountably, **Sucks**, which made a strong showing two years ago, has fallen off the list.

Brave, **Tough**, **Honorable**, **Consistent** and **Confident** have vanished, but **Trying** is a new starter.

As many people answered **Dishonest** as said **President**, but that doesn't count the people saying **Liar**.

I wonder whether Pew has considered going into the refrigerator magnet poetry business.

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