

BANISHED

1987

IN ACCORDANCE WITH AUTHORITY vested in the UNICORN HUNTERS of Lake Superior State College by its World-Wide Membership, its Influential Representatives in High Places, and the Wild Life Division of the Department of Natural Unicorns of the Great Sovereign State of Michigan, as well as that Great Water Wonderland's Department of State, the following words and phrases are herewith BANISHED and are included in toto and en masse on the Annual New Year's Dishonour List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Mis- or Over-Use, as Well as General Uselessness.



Illustration by CHUCK THURSTON

NUMBER 1 BANISHMENT

MEDICAL SPEAK: * The following phrases turned up again and again in the nominating letters. In previous years bureaucrats, journalists, or educators have inspired the major nominations. This year it's the people at what Sid Caesar called "The Doctor Place." However, one suspects that it isn't the doctors and nurses who invent these silly terms, but administrators and those who write the glossy pamphlets one finds in waiting rooms.

THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM/INDUSTRY. "Why don't we have them deliver half a pint of health to our door each morning?"
—JOHN JOLLY, Seattle

CLIENTS, replacing "patients." "Maybe this means they can charge more."
—NICHOLAS NAFF, Las Vegas

WELLNESS, replacing "health." The traditional parting thus becomes, "Go in good wellness."
—MRS. F. A. SIMON, East Lansing

NEONATAL UNIT. This is where they put new baby patients in hospitals instead of a nursery. And, what ever happened to Bye Baby Bunting?
—HENRY WARD, Detroit

THE PATIENT DID NOT FULFILL HIS WELLNESS POTENTIAL. "This statement not only obscures the fact that the patient died, but places the blame squarely on the patient for this inexcusable failure."
—EMMET DONNELLY, Detroit

*FOOTNOTE: During radio interviews January 1, several nurses and doctors called in with additions to the list. These included the pose that nurses no longer "nurse" but "engage in the nursing process," and that instead of "lather" on the admissions form for pregnant patients, one hospital (at least) lists "significant other." The American College of Physicians has requested a copy of the list so that they may expand on these medical banishments.

COLORIZE and COLORIZATION. "It is bad enough that Ted Turner damages classic films; his disrespect for the language is equally reprehensible. What he means is, 'color.'"
—PAUL H. TOEPP, Detroit

MY WORK IN THE STRUCTURE OF BASEBALL, as in statement by Jack Morris of the Detroit Tigers: "\$1.2 million is a lot of money, but it doesn't fit into my work in the structure of baseball." What he means is, "My job," but that wouldn't be worth even \$1.2.

PLEADED INNOCENT, which is simply wrong. "There hasn't been an 'innocent' plea for more than 200 years. A defendant pleads 'guilty' or 'not guilty' since he is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty."
—Attorney THOMAS H. EDWARDS, Austin, Texas

*FOOTNOTE: The Associated Press points out that it prefers "pleaded innocent" rather than "not guilty," lest the "not" be inadvertently dropped leaving the publisher open to libel.

MOST MULTI-UNIQUE AWARD

To a Grand Rapids radio news reporter (name withheld) who said: "They both have rather unique positions which are remarkably similar."
—JOHN H. TWIST, Grand Rapids

SELF-CONTAINED CONTRADICTIONS OF 1986

TURNED UP MISSING "If they 'turn up' how can they be missing?"
—ANN RABY RABE, Sault Ste. Marie

SAME DIFFERENCE. "The only thing worse would be 'the same identical difference.'"
—GREGORY C. CARTER, Oklahoma City, Okla.

HANDS ON PARTICIPATORY EXPERIENCE, meaning, "it's OK to touch it." "Destined to fuzzle the minds of all English-speaking children."
—JOHN C. SHERWOOD, Battle Creek

HALF DEAD. "How is this measured? Why not 1/3 dead, or 18/32; or, if an athlete, 120% dead?"
—LOU VODOPYA, Nashville, Tenn.

AUDIBLEIZED, as in football. Announcer: The quarterback audibleized at the line; i.e., he "called signals." "This makes me want to silencieze my TV and turn on the part that is pictureized."
—GLENN ICKLER, Framingham, Mass.

FILMED BEFORE A LIVE STUDIO AUDIENCE. "Do they film before dead studio audiences?"
—ISABEL GRASBY, Thunder Bay, Ont.

SIGNAGE. "I gag on this because it sounds like the drainage from the sinus passages, as in sewer/sewage. Is 'signage' more expensive than just plain signs?"
—C. B. SUTTON, Westerville, Ohio

ANSWER: Yes! And it takes up to three times as long to engage in "signage" as it does to order and put up "signs."

BY AND LARGE. "This means nothing; but politicians use it to imply vast research resulting in profound thought."
—ART PICKERING, Toronto

YOU CAN'T TAKE NOTHING WITH YOU. "Which may be true, but this is a double negative, even when uttered by Chicago Mayor Harold Washington whose predecessors found investigations 'fruitworthy' and disliked 'insinuosdos.'"
—DENISE M. BRUMMEL, Hammond, Ind. Unicorn Hunters' official Chicago Mayor Watcher

DE-INSTALL, as on Wang Laboratories invoice. "And it cost me \$464, but would it cost less if Wang simply removed it or took it out?"
—JOHN A. BOLL, Detroit

WEATHER WARNINGS:

SHOWER ACTIVITY. "Why not say 'rain.'"
—JIM ALTHOF, Seattle

PARTLY SUNNY. "Does this mean a partial eclipse?"
—DARYL HUGGARD, Bay City Pupil of Bruce Peasley, Handy High School

THERE YOU GO, recipient of furthest-and-fastest-travel-cliche-award for 1986; probably derived from Pres. Reagan's similar expletive. "I first encountered this in upper Michigan when a waitress said it every time she served something. I was restrained from 'going' each time by my companions. Then I returned to the West Coast and in a few weeks it entered into every commercial transaction."
—ELI LEVINE, Summerland, Calif.

DISHONOURABLE MENTION

• **A TAD.** As in "a tad nipper" or "lower your end just a tad." "A 'tad' is a little child, especially a boy."
—GEORGE CONSTABLE, Mansfield, Ohio

• **ARGUABLY,** as in "arguably the best boxer." "A non-source source in support of the writer's personal opinion."
—JAMES M. McDONALD, Jr., Seattle

• **SEQUESTRATION.** Government talk for certain budget cuts. "To me, it has something to do with jury seclusion."
—PHIL ARKOW, Cascade, Col.

I'M TALKIN' . . . HERE, as in "I'm talkin' baseball, here." "We're talkin' grammar, here!"
—CHARLOTTE HEAD, Nepean, Ont.

IN HIS WORDS, as in a news reporter quoting the prime minister. "How else would he say it? Would he rent lips?"
—SAUL JACOBSON, Regina, Saskatchewan

REDUNDANCY ALERT

FOREIGN IMPORTS: "If these have had such a devastating impact on our economy, I shudder to think about the dire consequence of domestic imports."
—T. A. QUINN, Louisville, Ky.

I.R.A. ACCOUNT. "Unless you are the Irish Republican Army this is one 'account' too many."
—EDWARD R. BOLT, Grand Rapids

POTENTIAL HAZARD. "Of course, a hazard is a potential danger."
—JAMES H. LINDSAY, Burnaby, B.C.

MILITARY WORD PROLONGATION BAD CONDUCT MEDAL

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE was soon changed to **PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE** on the training schedule, but the Army instructor kept saying **PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE.**
—ANTHONY G. WILSON, Lansing

Au contra

LAKE EFFECT needs to be thrown out. With any luck the condition would then vanish. "Belt" is overmodified. People, cars and nations have them; and they are to a degree interchangeable. If it gets so hot in the "sun belt" why not call it the "fan belt?"

Are there "safety belts" in cars, or are they parts of automobiles in which people are especially prudent?

"Silicon Valley" wants renaming. Is the valley really walled in by mountains of silicon? Does Silicon River run through it? The Nicaraguan rebels need a new name. Would you want to be a "contra?" Where is credibility in foreign policy if "Contra aid" is "contra-indicated?" Can the president explain to his country without making a "contra-diction?"
—D. G. GALBRAITH

Rexdale, Ont., Canada

NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S BANISHMENT LIST are accepted Nov. 15 through Dec. 15. A copy of this poster, a Unicorn Questing License (11 x 17, illustrated), a Unicorn Hunter's lapel pin, and membership card are \$2.50 the set. Subscription to THE WOODS-RUNNER, College quarterly with extensive letters-to-the-editor on

Banishment Words • \$3 the year • \$8 for three, in U.S.A.. NOMINATIONS named above are not necessarily the sole nominators of the banished words in question, but their citations seemed most worthy of quotation. ■ ■ A SUMMARY POSTER (22 x 17 inches, printed both sides) of banishments from 1976 to date is available at \$2 for 2 copies.

The UNICORN HUNTERS of Lake Superior State College

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Complimentary copies will be sent to teachers requesting Banish Posters (on school letterhead) for class

The cliché of the game calls him a 'gamer'. • You're playin' near the gas tank when you do that. • He had a long month of August. • Oh boy! Did he Charles. • He's swingin' the mean bat and carryin' the big gun. • And here you got a guy with high heat. • Those two guys are the table setters. • It was a big slow jug. • The question now is: Has the horse run out of sight? • That'll start a hockey game in a manager's stomach. • And the can is leaking in the fist inning. • Right now you ask for the salt and pepper and take a bite out of it. • Here's a guy break off a deuce. Look at that snake. • It's a fistful foul. • Like Ichabod Crane, 'he gets the job done'. • His wife is great with child. • You gotta like this guy. • When it breaks that much, it's like a scholarship to broadcast school. • There's a pressure when you look down his gun barrel. • What a move — he jerked his chain. • Looked like the truck that never got to the ballgame. • Gives up a walk who makes the All Star Team look like a M*A*S*H unit. • When the man tells you you've done a good job, everything else is mashed potatoes. • Gives up a walk as easily as he gives up a tattoo. • He was ready for the comebacker. • His ankles are like door knobs. • Clemens and Goodin — what a marquee tonk. • Never should have give him the lollipop pitch. • He's a one-legged runner. • The big Lord