

BANISHED

1989



THE FOLLOWING WORDS and phrases are here with 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-, Mal- or Over-Use, as Well as General Uselessness.

At the Top

• **CATASTROPHIC HEALTH INSURANCE:** A contradiction in terms. Even if it isn't, I sure don't want to buy insurance to make certain that I acquire catastrophic health. I have enough problems as it is.

Keri Zipf
Walla Walla, Washington

• **GOURMET:** As an adjective. What, or whom, does "gourmet-flavor" cat food taste like?

George H. Drury
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

• **BABYBOOMERS:** A cheap catch phrase for people born during a population explosion not of their own making.

Dave Frownfelder (News Director)
Mike Clement (Sports Director)
WLEN Radio
Adrian, Michigan

• **SOFT WHEEL INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM:** Bureaucratic lingo gone mad. Use highways.

Chris Thompson
Duluth, Minnesota

Signs of the Times

• **CUL-DE-SAC:** Used by real estate agents because it's fancier than dead end; means: last street to be plowed after a snow storm.

Bruce Gemmel
Georgetown, Ontario

• **TOTAL CAPACITY OF THIS ROOM LIMITED TO 100 PERSONS:** Probably developed by sign makers paid by the letter. Redundant! Total, capacity and limit all have the same meaning. "THIS ROOM" on a sign in a room is also unnecessary, as a sign for the next room wouldn't be posted in this room. The noun, persons, is superfluous, unless the locals are apt to bring elephants along for a meal. "Capacity 100" is sufficient for most reasonable, reasoning human beings.

Joseph S. Bommarito
Portage, Michigan

• **PED-XING:** On road signs. (If feet are crossing the road, what's attached? Pretty, Exotic Dancers?) See spin doctor.

Bob Bates
Columbus, Ohio

• **COLD GLASS OF BEER:** Who cares about the temperature of the glass?

Called into the City Desk Show
Joe Eastingwood
C-Fax Radio
Victoria, British Columbia

• **HANDICAP PARKING:** Is this where you park your disability?

Joanne D. Danko, M.D.
Rocky River, Ohio

• **QUARTS WATCHES:** Store sign reported in Boston. Could I buy a half-gallon watch? Would it cost me less to buy a pint-size watch?

M.E. O'Rourke
Dorchester, Massachusetts

Archaic

• **GLOVE COMPARTMENT:** Great-Grand-Dad stopped putting his driving gloves in a glove compartment around 1910.

We can't have archaic and eat it too.

Ivan Evasivitch
Chicago, Illinois

Sports Balderdash

• **GOOD HANDS:** "He's got the good hands." Could be a baseball player, or a football player. Which does a nose tackle need: good hands, or small nostrils? Could he be a tight end with good hands? Are there any loose ends with bad hands? Let's give 'em all a hand, with our good hands.

Jim Cook
Scarborough, Ontario

• **DEFENSE:** Used as a verb by sportscasters. "Bubba O'Sullivan is a quarterback who is tough to defense." Use the verb DEFEND. When I hear that folks are DEFENSING, I expect to see a work crew removing lengths of fencing. Will the fences around the stadium eventually disappear?

Robert M. Anderson
Chelsea, Michigan

• **TOUGH ROAD TO HOE:** Don't use a hoe on roads. A hoe is too small and the road is too wide; too tough to hoe. Use a hoe to make rows in fields of soft dirt, but not on a playing field. It's a tough ROW to hoe, by Joe.

Vince Greiner
Hart, Michigan

Fresh Remarks

• **FRESH DONUTS:** "We make 'em fresh every day." Could they make them stale? (Probably. But who would buy stale donuts?)

Jerome Blattner
Lima, Ohio

• **FRESH FROZEN:** Is "stale thawed" the result?

Robert M. Sage
Ft. Myers, Florida

• **FARM-FRESH:** The downwind "freshness" of many farms reveals this is an ill-chosen term. (Hey there shopper, ever been to a farm?)

Jack Dietrich
Albuquerque, New Mexico

• **SUPERMARKET-FRESH:** This applies to Supermarket donuts? (May be better than farm fresh.)

Henry F. Lauber
Ferguson, Missouri

• **FRESH BAKED:** How else do you bake it?

John T. Brown
Mansfield, Ohio

Redundancy Alert

• **ALCOHOL-RELATED DRUNK DRIVING:** What other kind is there?

• **INK PEN:** Is this used to avoid confusion with a pig pen?

Ken Terpstra
Janison, Michigan

• **PIZZA PIE:** Why call a pie a "pie-pie"? Pie on the double pie, even if it's thick crust.

Beverly Murray
Cranford, New Jersey

• **PRE-PLANNING:** A funeral home in Gulfport, MS asks people to do pre-planning. (Probably for their predestination.)

Kathryn H. Stine
Gautier, Mississippi

• **WISE OLD ADAGE:** I thought ADAGE meant wise old saying. This means, wise, old, old saying; even Ann Landers gets this one wrong.

M. W. Connell
Grosse Pointe, Michigan

• **HAND-BLOWN GLASS:** As a frequent patron of craft shows, I have yet to find any mouth-blown glass. Can craftsmen's hands do tricks that we don't know about?

John T. Brown
Mansfield, Ohio

Political Peroration

• **READ MY LIPS:** You should have used my 1987 entry. If it had been banned last year, we would not have had to listen to this throughout the 1988 campaign. In the interest of forging a kinder and gentler nation, I am withdrawing my 1987 suggestion that the lips of all political candidates be fattened up for easier reading.

Michael Locke
Mt. Clemens, Michigan

• **SOUND BITE:** Must refer to the words that a successful candidate will have to eat after the election.

Keith C. Krahnke
Paradise, Michigan

• **SPIN DOCTOR:** This must refer to a terrific slam dancer with an M.D. Or does it describe a nice move to the hoop by Julius Erving? What kind of illness can be treated this way; vertigo?

M. DeChant
Newberry, Michigan

Television Patols

• **DOCUDRAMA:** Sounds like the high priest of an offshoot Eastern religion: "I went to the high mountain to commune with His Holiness the Docudrama."

• **MINI SERIES:** A movie that has been hacked up because it's too long, or too boring to show in its entirety on one night. A MINI SERIES should be a series which looks (and looks) at women's skirts.

• **DRAMEDY:** This hybrid, drama/comedy, of the "Moonlighting" genre, sounds like a camel with the shingles.

• **INFOTAINMENT:** Another hybrid, information/entertainment, a Geraldo Rivera specialty. Sounds like a government policy to stem the spread of communism by flooding Third World countries with free copies of The Reader's Digest.

Keith C. Krahnke
Paradise, Michigan

Aussie Alert

• **MATE, SPARK UP THE BARBIE, TOO RIGHT,** and all other Australian slang: Aussisms creeping like crocodiles into North American English. Send them back down under to die in the outback.

Suzie O'Donnell, a.k.a. The Soosa
Willowdale, Ontario

Others

• **REMEDiate:** This little gem comes from educators, the same functional illiterates who use the word competency.

• **ZEROIZE:** This little dandy lurks in the field of espionage, waiting to jump out at us. Crypto equipment is zeroized, rather than reset. Educators could use this as a euphemism for fail, as in, "Mrs. Jones, your son Johnny has been zeroized." (We thought it referred to Little Orphan Annie's invisible pupils.)

Robert E. Smading
Bellevue, Washington

• **CULT CLASSIC:** Late-night televised movies. "I was a Zombie," "Teenage Zombie," "I was a Zombie for the F.B.I.," "Zombie High School," "Zombie Surfers Can't Die." Presumably these are classics to Zombie cults.

• **CLASSIC:** anything classic. Although you banned this in 1982, it has escaped the sportscaster's lexicon. It now permeates national advertising! Coca Cola has "NEW" Coke banging on "CLASSIC" Coke, which of course is OLD Coke. Students are told about Shakespeare, Van Gogh, and Beethoven classics. Their ad-choked minds may equate classics to "Nude Descending a Staircase - With Coke," or "The Thinker - With Hamburger," or "To Eat Or Not To Eat - That's the Indigestion."

• **SCRATCH BISCUITS:** All of the fast-food outlets now put my breakfast on one of these. It makes me wonder if these products are made from dandruff or fleas. I can also buy steakbiscuits and hambiscuits. If these things grow on a cow, or pig, they must grow where I can't see them.

Lou Vodoppy
Nashville, Tennessee

• **PSEUDO SPANISH:** Folks out here say "hasta la bye bye" and "hasta lumbago" for "hasta la vista." This reflects a bad attitude, known here as a TUDE.

Denise M. Brummel
Redondo Beach, California

• **MANAGING TERRORISM:** Book title. Good trick if you can do it. (Must be an autobiography.)

Nedine S. Kapper
Alta Loma, California

• **PROSTRATE GLAND:** This is not a gland that bows or kneels in adoration; nor does it throw itself on the earth face down. It's not prostrate. It's prostate. There is no R in this gland.

Edwina L. Wilkinson, R.N.
New Baltimore, Michigan

• **OR WHATEVER:** When the words won't come and you're living on the jagged edge of linguistic endurance, simply insert OR WHATEVER. Here in Canada it's a kind of hamburger extender for a lean lexicon.

Ron Jeffels
Richmond, British Columbia

• **ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND:** If it's enclosed any idiot can find it.

Rosemary K. Burroughs
Bryan, Texas

• **DESIGNER:** Jeans, blouses, perfume, coats, windows. A designer is one who plans, who designs, who makes original sketches, patterns, scenes. If someone actually drew upon your entire lower body then you could claim to display designer jeans, or a massive tattoo.

Charles Riley
Mansfield, Ohio

• **FORCED RELAXATION:** A modern behavior management technique used on children. Similar to the old-fashioned "stand in the corner." According to the descriptive material submitted: "The child is quickly restrained . . . restricted to a chair or floor . . . must stay there for a minimum of three minutes PLUS 10 quiet seconds . . . no struggling before release . . . Be careful to use ONLY the amount of pressure necessary to maintain the child in the forced relaxation position . . . be ever ready to reapply the pressure should your child begin again to resist." (Could adults benefit from this modern technique at the end of a tough day?) An Orwellian oxymoron.

Mary Sullivan
Marquette, Michigan

Lake Superior State University



NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S BANISHMENT LIST will be accepted Nov. 15 through Dec. 15, 1989. Nominations listed above are not necessarily from the sole nominators of the banished words, but these nominations seemed most worthy of quotation. This poster available for \$2. A SUMMARY POSTER (22 x 17 inches, printed both sides) of banishments from 1976 to 1988 is available for \$5.

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