The following words and phrases were BANISHED and included in toto and en masse on the All-Time Dishonor List of Words Banned from the Queen’s English for Mis-, Mal- or Over-Use, as well as General Uselessness.

OXYMORONS
Paux peaches or diamonds: “with a certificate of authenticity.”

—Paula Marie
Aurora, Colorado

Partial release: “perhaps a leak?” From a news clipping: “Several members of the Madison County Friend of the Court said they were ‘upset’ by Thursday’s partial release of a state report on the office’s operations.”

—Anneliese Boudin
“The Wiener
Mishigan, Michigan

BUREAUCRAT
In a letter from Comestock in Reston, Virginia, to Lake Superior State University’s Information Services Department: “Dear Client: Frequency protection studies of your private operational fixed microwave facilities during the month of November, 1989, found no changes or modifications to any private operational fixed system within the contours of your facilities. No cases of potential interference remain outstanding from previous months.” (Editor: We’ll take word for it.)

Several entries below from Jeff Fox, managing editor of The Mesabi Daily News, Virginia, Minnesota:

Proactive: “a non-proven word among bureaucrats and other officials… It seems that budget and other constraints over the past few years have forced…public agencies into a reactive mode, which apparently is to be abandoned and avoided at all costs. So officials who see themselves as taking the reins of power and boldly charting into the future insist they are proactive and ‘act on a plan’.” (Editor: Public employees are no longer assumed to be active. Shadow employees, who have been hired to replace the one who has been sent to jail, and who to them, may be considered ‘pro-active’, in the sense that shadow employees actually work.)

Zero-percent increase: instead of budget or wage-freeze.

Unrequested leave of absence: instead of lay-off.

The reigning fat-cop champion: “On a recent trip to Duluth, the board meets on a weekly basis. We should review this program on a regular basis. This proposal should be examined on a financial basis. What ever happened to fiscal responsibility? We need to review this program regularly.” (Editor: We need to figure out what this idea will cost.)

Negative Supplement: “Our wizards in Lansing (Michigan) no longer find it necessary to issue Executive Order cuts to balance the state budget. We are now subject instead to ‘negative supplements’. A rose by any other name…”

—Larry McCollum
Berge, Michigan

Budget/Deficit Reduction Plan: “Get real. You can only fool the public. They are not enough to tackle America’s deficit are Japanese bankro…er. We all know how fast their Wall streets are from the interest area…And add in new pork barrel spending programs attached by Congress and what you’ve really got is a black hole, economic collapse, drag-down plan.”

—Nick Sawyer
Escanaba, Michigan

Address: “It’s a political doubletalk, as in ‘We really addressed that problem. Perhaps something would actually get done if people analyzed and resolved problems, not just talk about them.”

—Jack Dietrich
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Please close the Window of Opportunity.” (Editor: It’s cold.)

—Margaret DeClair
Newberry, Michigan

Parenting and Parenting Skills: “Parent is a word we can talk about the man to the people…” (Editor: “all day long.”)

—Joe Sadeh
Iron Mountain, Michigan

 Urgent Action Imperative

Myself: The misuse of this reflexive pronoun has been pronounced for more than a decade since it was banned in 1990. “Please see Mr. Keating (in this room).” “He recommends that you take this large, heavy,Reports to the audience, and if any large unsure loan that you need,” should be “see Charles Keating, Jr. or him.” What’s the difference behind the overuse of “myself?” The diminishment of personal responsibility. Avoidance of incrimination by self-illusion.

The most worldwide censure failed miserably. Empirical evidence gathered from the press, radio, television (including C-Span) and eavesdropping suggests that myself is the most gratuitously displacing me in routine usage. The displacement ratio is estimated to be greater than one to one. They are not expressed, and recalled, if not entirely understood, as “E=m/c.”

—Richard Arnow
Loomis, Michigan

E (big Error) = (m (me) c (compromised))

Although no comparable formula has yet been developed, “yourself” and “myself” are fast following “myself” into the belt of misuse. The reflexive pronoun has become a reflex. It appears to be overstated or misused by all those who fear being labeled self-serving. It should be termed the “commodified” pronoun. It may also be termed a “refuge pronoun” for the purpose of avoiding personal responsibility and any form of accountability and prosecution.

—Anne Ueberroth
Fleming, Michigan

Multidisciplinary Current Awareness Product: In a news release advertising a research journal from the Institute for Scientific Information, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

—Marian Reiser
Canton, Ohio

Self Storage: From an advertisement selling “self storage bins with” solid walls and cement floors. “How many people want to store themselves? Especially in a room with solid walls and a cement floor! It’s nice to get away from it all, but this going too far.” (Editor: Maybe self-storage should refer to a cemetery, a locked and padded room, or a nice nest of ashes for the day room?)

—Robin Beyer
South St. Marie, Michigan

Creative Differences: “Hollywood speaks for ‘hated each other’s guts.”

—Dale M. Johnson
Cincinnati, Ohio

Real estate: “Weekly House of the Week” — Too small in which to turn around.

—John D. Brown
Mansfield, Ohio

Pond Sites — Swamp area.

Lower Level — Basement.

Close to Everything — In the middle of a commercial area.

Handy Man Special — Condemaed.

Recently decorated - Water stains on basement wall have been painted.

—John D. Brown
Mansfield, Ohio

DEAD MEAT: “About as annihilated as you can get.”

(Editor: Meat means edible flesh only. Only cinaroids are known to find plant products edible to be edible. We don’t have dead meats or meatless. All animals are of the same species. Supermarkets don’t advertise their ‘dead meat’ as meat.)

—George Constable
Newcastle, Ohio

Scenario (released): “Suck the U.S.S. Scenarios” (Editor: Launch the U.S.S. Plan, Fox, Conn, Connolly, Conspiracy, Outline, Design, Proposal, Model, Scheme, Shimmer, Dshtake, Scintagas, Renditions, Fanciful, Bounded.)

Venue: “Venu is the country or locality in which a legal action occurs or a crime is committed. It is not an NPL stadium, it isn’t in ‘The Superdome is the venue for next Sunday’s game.”

—George Constable
Newcastle, Ohio

Choreography: “for planning, rather than dancing.”

Cut a deal: “Cut a deal with anything (stone, steel)”

—Willis J. Smithe
Mishigan, Michigan

ARGOT IN DISTRESS

Rocket Scientist: New cliché. “It’s no rocket scientist.” (Editor: “Not a rocket scientist? Or You don’t have to be a rocket scientist to use this cursed expression.”)

—Don Sweeny
South St. Marie, Michigan

We can send a man to the moon, and we can’t….” (Editor: “all day long.”)

—Joe Sadeh
Iron Mountain, Michigan

Parenting and Parenting Skills: “Parent is a word we can talk about the man to the people…” (Editor: “all day long.”)

—Joe Sadeh
Iron Mountain, Michigan

Sensational: when used in sensational violence, sexless, campaign sensationalism. I suppose it’s O.K. to drop the sensress when Rambo is doing it in the name of God, country, the Old Glory.

—Frank G. Hult
Lincoln Park, Michigan

NOMINATIONS for next year’s Banishment List will be accepted Nov. 15 through Dec. 15, 1993.

This poster is available for $15. A 1992 Review Calendar (14 x 14 inches) of selected previous banishments is available for $8.

A Report of the Office of Public Affairs & Information, Lake Superior State University, South St. Marie, Michigan 49783