Liberal — Columnist Bob Codmore of The Record in Albany, NY, recently wrote: “Banish liberal or at least have it declared an obscenity, which is what the word has become. It’s probably better today to be called a Marxist, a Commin, a pino, a fellow traveler or a useful idiot...If liberal was deemed obscene by academics and dictionary-makers, maybe conservator talk show hosts, callers, commentators and politicians would be less likely to use the word...Perhaps then, instead of deploring an idea as liberal, conservative speakers would have to explain why they are against it.”

Family Values — The definition of ‘family values’ has come to mean anything that fits into the right wing fundamentalist’s agenda. If you don’t fit into that narrow category, you don’t have ‘family values.’

Michelle Barreres, Central Lake, Mich.

Mean-Spirited — Do politicians know any other word to describe those with whom they disagree?


Embrace — ‘Put this in the Tired Mepheret Category: ‘The senator hopes his constituents will embrace the idea.’ To what degree can we expect the public to listen to the public and our constituents, Virginia?

Tom Tucker, Grass Lake, Mich.

I Feel Your Pain — Where does it hurt?

Troy Voth, Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedaro Lake, Mich.

Sudden Death — ‘Used to describe a tie breaking period in sporting events...but losing the “sudden death” contest is seldom fatal. Why not call it a sudden victory (loss) period?’


To Die For — ‘I love food, but “to die for?” If something is that good, shouldn’t it be: “In live for?”

Lyn Satisky, Raleigh, N.C.

Humanitarian — Overused in the news and elsewhere. ‘Two oxymorons showed up on the same prime-time news broadcast: humanitarian disaster and humanitarian tragedy. I suppose if you must have a disaster, a humanitarian one is the best kind.’

Bill Fitzpatrick, Namaimo, B.C., Canada

(Editors’ Note: We’ve also included “Humanitarian Aid” for its redundancy value. If one gives aid, that person is most likely to be a humanitarian.)

My Plate is Full — Meaning: I have a busy schedule.

Variations include “I have enough on my plate” or “I have too much on my plate.” So eat, already!

Ken Behrens, W/B/C Radio, Rock Island, Ill.

Information Superhighway — Where’s my map? Can I pull over for directions? How about a bathroom stop? Are we there yet?

Peter Warner, CJOB Radio, Winnipeg, Man., Canada

Pushing the Envelope — This one is enough to make stamps come unglued.

Listener of Peter Warner, CJOB

Modedal — “The word modal is a noun...but the misuse of this word by Olympic reporters has become even more common. In addition, I was stunned to learn from one of the Detroit sports reports that the U.S. athlete who ‘medaled’ in the downhill ski competition also silvered. Perhaps the athlete was dapped in a large vat of silver compound for that winning metallic glow.”


Given — ‘Given the number of people who use ‘given’, I must give in after much give and take debate and request that we give the book be ‘given’ with respect to the ‘given’ usage, even though it may be a ‘given’ that some people will be given a severe blow to their give conversations.


Warm Fuzzy Feeling — “An expression used to describe a ‘feel good about everything and everybody’ state of mind, but sounds more like the result of having swallowed a gumbel.”


-Challenged — ‘When referring to disabled people as ‘physically-challenged’ or others who don’t fit into the homoge- nous mold of average. What’s next? Why not classify short or tall people as ‘vertically-challenged’, or refer to homeless people as ‘habitat-challenged’? Let’s provide warm hats for the fully-challenged. ‘How about vocabulary-challenged’ for the people who can’t come up with those ridiculous euphe- misms?”


Post-Consumer Products — ‘I always wonder where these products come from. One post- consumer, perhaps.

A. Koslowicz, Dept. Chair, Roseville High School, Roseville, Mich.

’(Also nominated were post-modern, post-feminist, post-pur- burner, post- shave blunt, post Cold War, post boomers, and the ‘post thing.’ You get the idea. post is now post-use.)

Po-mo — Michele Mooney of Los Angeles wrote us this abbreviation for post modern from a dictionary of L.A. speak. It’s listed as a noun, with the following example: “That mini- mall is a po-mo mess.” Honest. Michele sent us eight pages of examples which she had clipped from newspapers and magazines in L.A. where she says everything is referred to as either pre- or post-eats.

One of the most-nominated words this year was “sucks,” as in this sucks, “that sucks,” someone or something sucks.”

Most of the nominations came from high school students and their teachers. Here are some of their comments:

“This X-rated personification has become the negative choice among anal retreivers of the world. It must be crushed like the verbal armadillo.”

Shawn Tooley, Daniel Cross (students) and A.T. Sutton (instructor) of Westerns High School, Parma, Mich.

‘Good profanity is becoming harder to find.”

Anonymous high school teacher or student from Kalamazoo.

‘It is a lazy response,” said Rick Fowler, Beyone City High School English Teacher. He said students seem to believe that all required subjects “suck.”

Nominations for the 1996 Banished List will be accepted anytime.

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redundancies:

Vast Majority — Another one which escaped banishment in years past. Bill Bocemenn, House, Mich.

No Parking at any Time — Nominated by George Drury of Milwaukee, Wis., who gave special mention to that Milwaukee favorite: Temporary No Parking Any Time.”

from the busness reports:

Soft — “As in ‘soft markets,’ when describing a particular commodity with poor sales. Does this mean the seller market will be ‘hard when sales increase’? Sounds as if the executives are trying to soften the news to shareholders if you ask me.”


Consumer Confidence — Nominated by an exasper- ated Charles Rufino of Dix Hills, N.Y.

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oxymorons:


Target Audience — “A delightful combination of oxymoron and mixed metaphor.”

Leonard Wheat, Alexandria, Virginia

Pretty Bad — “For pretty ugly”

Nicole Crawford, St. Martin De Porres High School, Detroit, Mich.

Jumbo Shrimp — The favorite nomination which escaped the list this year.

Tanya Degree, Kingsford High School, Kingsford, Mich.

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