

BANISHED

What is needed is not teaching the use of new words but fighting the misuse of the great old words. Martin Buber, TO CREATE NEW WORDS

HOW THEY JAR the airwaves — these new words, you say —
Knotting and puckering off the human tongue
They disturb the fluid inside the human ear —
Fly off like corkscrews into the whirlwind
And flap like yawping crows at meaning's edges.
They disappear in brief sporadic fire —
Only a particle of cold ash — or none — remains
In the dark and pregnant ALL —
Do not cultivate them overmuch.

But rather it is the true task — you tell us —
To embrace the great old words —
Stripping off burrs — scraping barnacles away —
Molding and purifying them once more
On the fiery and adamant anvil
Of the human spirit until they flare out — tensile
And grounded in Being —
As LOGOS — pronounced.

As WORD — as VERB — try *Dialogue*, you say; try *Gestalt*;
Try *Rachman*; *Hasidit*; try *Yahweh*; yes: try *Poet*!

—RUTH IODICE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH authority invested in the UNICORN HUNTERS of LAKE SUPERIOR STATE COLLEGE by its world membership, its influential REPRESENTATIVES in HIGH PLACES, and the Wild Life Division of the Department of Natural Resources of the Sovereign State of Michigan, the following words and phrases are herewith BANISHED; and are included on the New Year's Dishonour List, 1979, of Words Banished from the Queen's English because of mis-use, mal-use, over-use or general uselessness.

UNCONDITIONAL BANISHMENT:

I FEEL, which is too often used when "I believe" or "I think" is meant. Since "feel" is emotional, the speaker thus protects himself from challenge. Whereas, if he were to "believe" or "think," he could be debated . . . SOCIAL SECURITY, being neither social nor secure . . . WHAT ARE YOU INTO? as in, "I'm into kids, but I used to be into death" . . . ENERGY CRISIS — since no one is certain what it is, if it is, and if so what to do about it.

DISHONOURABLE MENTION:

BEAUTIFUL, which has lost most of its original meaning; VIABLE ALTERNATIVE; the confusion of PERIMETERS and PARAMETERS; IRREGARDLESS AND IRRESPECTIVE as a phrase.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

The new Fried Cabbage Leaf Cluster was awarded to "yuh know," which made the list for the second time. It has been suggested that this is now used as a punctuation mark and could be noted on the typewriter by the key for "¢" which, for all practical purposes, is useless . . . Red Alert: In this same category, OKAY, REALLY, EH (Canadian) and RIGHT, which have become punctuary and are cluttering up the language to such an extent that real words may be totally obliterated . . . The Most Cautious Use of the English Language for 1978 Award,

to the Clemson University football player who said of Woodie Hayes, "HE MIGHT OF GOTTEN PUSHED INTO ME."

LIMITED BANISHMENTS:

THE BOTTOM LINE, commonly used as the ultimate expression for almost any ultimate, is banished for use by all save accountants and financial vice-presidents. LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER is banished for use by librarians, who actually mean to say "Library." SOMEWHERE DOWN THE ROAD, banished from business but not song lyrics. Used in press conferences to keep department heads and press guessing.

TWO-YEAR PROBATION:

There is nothing wrong with these words, but they are being over-used, particularly by restaurant critics and architects, and in this over-use tend to be pompous: AMBIANCE and OPT. We urge a strong effort to substitute other words during this two year probation.

WASHINGTON PHRASE ALERT:

WHERE YOU STAND IS WHERE YOU SIT* Which apparently means that one's philosophy and opinions are based solely on one's job.

*WHERE YOU STAND . . . SIT — a slight distortion of original coinage by Don K. Price, then a Harvard dean: "Where you stand depends on where you sit . . ."