



# BANISHED

RED ALERT!!!!!!  
'maintain yourself'  
heading east from  
California on pre-  
valing conversa-  
tions as a replace-  
ment for 'have a  
nice day.'  
-G. Harding, Col.O.

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 State of Michigan, the following words and phrases are herewith BANISHED! They are included on the 1980 NEW YEAR'S DISHONOUR LIST OF WORDS BANISHED FROM THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH because of mis-, mal-, and over-use as well as general uselessness.  
—Peter Thomas, chief herald/W.T.Rabe, archivist

- HOWARD COSSELL, ENMASSE – BALLPARK FIGURE – TIME FRAME
- THE PITS – PUBLIC INTEREST – THE ATHENS OF THE ...
- THE READING ALOUD OF WORDS DISPLAYED ON TV SCREENS
- SURELY, IF WE CAN SEND A MAN TO THE MOON WE CAN ...

## \*UNCONDITIONAL BANISHMENT

**BALLPARK FIGURE** indicating an estimate. A disservice to the great sport which is accurately documented by statistics, ad nauseam.

— Prof. Allen D. Bushong, U. of S. Carolina

**TIME FRAME**, replaces "point in time" as a pretentious redundancy. Used by Rep. Candidate George Bush "... in the time frame of the next 20 years" and the Shah of Iran's spokesman, "We have no time frame for his departure." Why not, "We don't know when he'll leave"?

**HOWARD COSSELL, EN MASSE** is banished to Neebish Island and its Great Grey Owls. limited to 14 staff writers and dictionaries and Fowler's "English Usage" for reading  
— Ed Werstein, Milwaukee, Wis. It is estimated that this banishment will eliminate 33 % of the language crisis on continental U.S.A. alone.

**THE READING ALOUD** by TV announcers of printed words displayed on the screen.

**DO-ABLE**, as in Mass. Gov. Edward King's statement, "a \$500 million rollback we think is do-able."  
— Fred Bauer, Marblehead, Mass.

**IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**; employed by groups which often include only a few members representing interests no broader than their own, but announce a position claiming "the public" shares their views.  
— Geoffrey E. Gonsler, Phoenix Arizona

**IT'S THE PITS** which isn't necessarily that bad.  
— Gregory J. Pittz, Belmont, Wis.

**SURELY** if we can send a man to the moon we can ...  
— Monte Hummell, Innis College, University of Toronto

## \*LIMITED BANISHMENTS

**INTERFACE**, as used by anyone other than seamstresses, geometers, and computer operators.

— Peggy Elder, New Mexico State University, who writes: "This is a noun; a plane surface forming the common boundary of two bodies or spaces. It may fit into the world of the computer, but to shift its meaning to human beings is an obscenity. If we can't relate with each other we might as well retreat to the forest and let computers have their way."

**PODIUM**, when used where one means "lectern." One stands behind a lectern which rests on a podium.  
— Bernard S. Katz, Washington, D.C.

**CHILL OUT**, used to and/or by children; nominated by many students from P.S. No. 109, N.Y.C. and Monica Swift of P.S. 20Q, Jamaica, N.Y., along with "you are fat," "you stink," "you're ugly," "shut up," "hang up your clothes," "clean up your room," and "go to bed."

**COME DOWN ON** meaning "this is our position; forbidden to educational administrators and bureaucrats, as in "institutionally, we come down on the liberal side." It implies that the policy was arrived at lightly, as in tossing a coin. **NO PROBLEM**, forbidden to policy makers and supervisors.

— Leland D. Ester, Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis. who observes: "Whenever I raise a question about something that is not going well and someone tells me 'no problem' there is almost invariably a problem."

**PRE-BOARD** as used by airport announcers.  
— Andrew Dantschisch, St. Petersburg, Fla. How can one board an airplane before one has boarded it?

## \*A QUARANTINE

**TASKER**, a memo or other document instructing someone to carry out a task.

— Dr. Robert C. Larson, U.S. Forces Liaison Officer, Baden-Wuerttemberg, who is fearful that this word now commonly infesting U.S.A. military in Germany will spread to the continental U.S.A. in epidemic proportions. He recommends a one-year word quarantine. Done!

## \*MORITORIUM

**THE ATHENS OF THE ...** referring to a town in a specific area; e.g. "Madison is the Athens of the mid-west."

— John N. Koch, Madison, Wis. writes: "I suspect that residents of many cities large enough to support high school marching bands have been told theirs is 'The Athens' of their region, but never on what authority. Let's place a moritorium on the expression until Athens proudly proclaims itself 'The Chicago of Greece.'" Done!

THE WORD SCOURGE OF THE SEVENTIES: A dead heat between YUH KNOW, twice unsuccessfully banished, a terminal disease of the English language; and HAVE A NICE DAY, a banality done in lieu of sincere words with real meaning.

INDIVIDUALS CITED ABOVE are generally only one of many nominating the word or phrase, though perhaps the most succinct in wording their nomination. More than 2,000 nominations were received. Others wishing to make immediate nominations for Jan. 1, 1981 banishments may send them\* to Banish Unicorn Hunters, Lake Superior State College, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. 49783. For copies of this banishment scroll enlarged to 11 x 17 inches send 50 cents for each scroll to Banished Words, LSSC, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. 49783 \*Please limit banishment nominations to five and include denunciations and examples of each.