

# BANISHED

1985

IN ACCORDANCE WITH AUTHORITY vested in the UNICORN HUNTERS of Lake Superior State College by its World-Wide Membership, its Influential Representatives in High Places, and the Wild Life Division of the Department of Natural Unicorns of the Great Sovereign State of Michigan, as well as that Great Water Wonderland's Department of State, the following words and phrases are herewith 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- or Over-Use, as Well as General Uselessness.



Illustration by CHUCK THURSTON

## NUMBER 1 BANISHMENT

"MANDATE" and its various forms. Of 3,000 nominations received from as far away as Japan and Saudi Arabia, hundreds cited "mandate." Not all were from disgruntled Democrats. There was a general complaint that politicians use "mandate" to overstate justification for their actions or proposals. "Mandate," could in some instances mean, "I've had two long phone calls on this subject." Tired, mis-used, abused and often redundant as "a mandatory law."

—WAYNE SADDLER, San Jose, Calif.

**mandate** — *n.* 1. commission given to one nation by an associated group of nations to administer the government of a backward territory. 2. *Pol.* policy instruction by electors to legislators. 3. a command. 4. *Roman Law.* decree by emperor.

"STAR WARS" as applied to military defense system, gives the impression of actually having a meaning; but it has no meaning whatsoever.

—JOSEPH J. DARY, Toronto, Ontario

"VERTICAL ACCESS DEVICE" is bureaucracy talk for elevator.

—JOHN CONSTANTINO, East Lansing, Mich.

"SIGNIFICANT WRITE DOWN," as used in The Wall Street Journal, means "a big loss."

—FRANK HAND, East Lansing, Mich.

"VISUALLY EYEBALL THE RUNWAY," NASA announcer-talk as space shuttle pilots prepared to land. Nominated for *Tautology of the Year Award*.

—PAUL NOLAN, Athens, Ohio

"HOLIDAY NOG" instead of egg nog. Let us return the egg to its proper place in Christmas.

—TERRENCE SWEENEY, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

## International Banishments

WORDS which deeply disturb people cut across international and language boundaries. The Unicorn Hunters' first "other languages" banishments are based on the Nuremburg Ad Hoc Committee Report:

"IN DER TAT," which means "indeed." The latter was also nominated by many from the U.S.A. and Canada, including Bryan Szabo of Eugene, Oregon, who described it as "the most overused word of the year; indeed, of the century."

"IN DIESEM UNSEREN LANDE," a cliché meaning "... in this, our country," as used by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and likened on The Cloy Scale to Nixon's "My fellow Americans."

→ NUREMBURG AD HOC COMMITTEE: Herr Konrad und Frau Wanda Kuhl; und Frau Barbara Schirer.

## THE CLOY SCALE

SOCIO-POLITICO	3	My fellow Americans!
BUSINESS CUTSIE	2	in diereim unseren Lande
	1	Give me a tinkle sometime.
	1	Have a nice day!
DOMESTIC	1	Isn't ookums sweetsie?
	0	Go pottie?

"BUSTERS" as in "inflation busters" and "crime busters." Drawn from movie world, and applied to almost everything in great tradition of "-arama" ("Crime-arama," and "Sex-arama") and "Anatomy of a --" ("Anatomy of an Opera" and "Anatomy of a Toaster.")

BRUCE PEASLEY'S ENGLISH CLASS at Handy High, Bay City, asks if "bare naked" is opposed to "clad naked"?

"READ" when used as a noun. e.g. "This book is a good read." Book critics should know better. "Read" is a verb.

—RUDY SIMONS, Oak Park, Mich.

"QUALITY TIME," as distinguished from "quantity time" is always applied by the fulfilled woman to explain the time they devote to their families. "Quality time" is what we see in the movies —



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smiling, laughing, having a food fight; tossing one's child in the air with wild abandon. Unfulfilled women, on the other hand, simply slop through with quantity time.

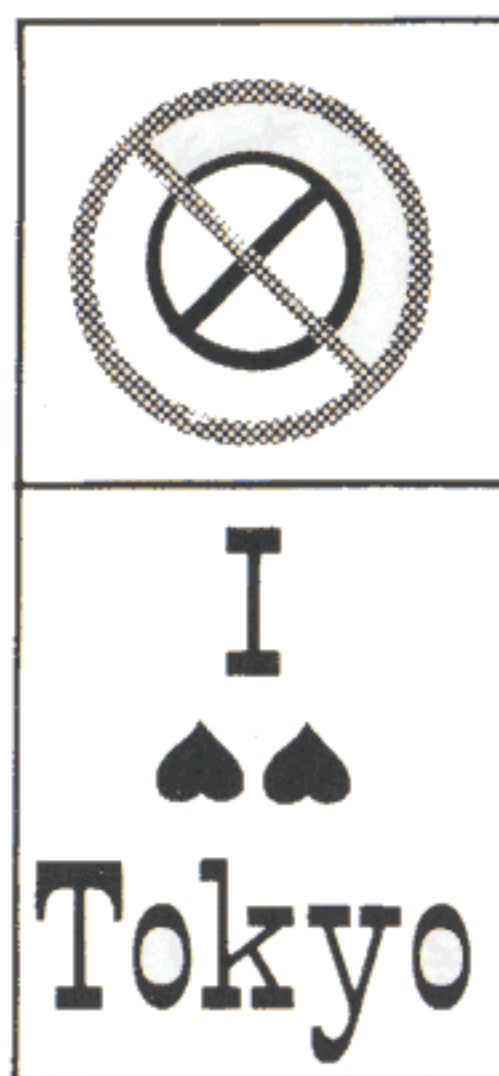
—SANDRA M. LOUDEN, Pittsburgh

**SELF-CONTAINED REVERSING VERB:** As "off-loading," "up-tick," and "debrief." A new category of word banishment contributed by Ed Shoopy, Mississauga, Ontario.

"OVERCROWDED:" We have not had a simply "crowded" prison here in Tennessee since 1982. I can grasp the concept of too much of a good thing, as "over-paid"; but I can't comprehend too much of a bad thing, as "over-poor" or "over-hurt."

—JAMES L. KNIGHT, Nashville, Tenn.

**TWO COMMON SYMBOLS** are banished: The international road sign of a circle with a line through it meaning "No . . ."; and hearts meaning "love." Preston Turegano of San Diego, Cal., said the road sign was okay on highways, but should never be used for such things as "No fat mayors," "No wimps," and "No burping." Prof. James Kirkup of Koyoto University, Japan, proposed turning the hearts upside down, "which would change the slogan popularized by the Governor of Tokyo to mean 'I ugh Tokyo.'"



Complimentary copies will be sent to teachers requesting Banish Posters (on school letterhead) for class.

## SPECIAL UKASE

THE UNICORN HUNTERS order the repossession of the apostrophe. It has been dispossessed and mis-employed to indicate unauthorized plurals. Even a newspaper account of the banishment list referred to "words on the list in year's (sic) past. . ." If we allow this desecration of the apostrophe, what can we expect of the colon, the hyphen, the bracket or the dieresis?

RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES are authorized for MARTHA KERNS of Sandusky, Ohio for copious nomination above and beyond the call of duty of words for banishment. She dispatched eight lists this year, each containing 200 to 300 words or phrases. Mrs. Kerns appears to be speedily eliminating the English language, which might not be a bad idea. We could then start afresh.

"NEAR MISS" should be "near hit" because it didn't nearly miss, it actually did miss.

—ROBERT D. HANCOCK, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

**FISHY WORD ALERT: "UP TO SPEED"** is running rampant in government fisheries management administrations. Zap it now or it will zap you. e.g. "The president isn't up to speed on the budget," meaning "He doesn't know what's going on."

—JOHN MAIOLO, Greenville, N. Carolina

## Dishonourable mention

Received too late to banish

"YOU GOT IT," because speakers have made it almost as tiresome as "Have a nice day." (Besides; what is it we 'get'?)

—BARBARA R. DuBOIS, U. of New Mexico

"PREQUEL," as in: "Not a sequel but a prequel," by child psychologist referring on CBS Morning News to a new book which lets off where a previously published book started.

—AARON P. PRATT, Jr., Windsor, Conn.

"YES," when answering the phone. Yes what? Yes, I am here? Yes, I can hear you? or Yes, we have no bananas?

—CLAIRE BALL, APO, San Francisco

"THE REASON IS BECAUSE. . ." a blatant redundancy!

—WARREN L. FELTON, II, M.D., Oklahoma City, Okla.

"NOTHING QUITE COMPARES LIKE A MASSAGE!" in a Shear Genius advertisement, Glenview, Ill. To which the nominator asks: "Compares to what?"

—FAITH M. EWALD, Elmhurst, Ill.

**FROM WEATHER REPORTERS:** "The current temperature right now is . . ." "We have a wet pavement situation," "We are expecting considerable rain shower activity" and "Wet weather process."

"ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND." If I can't find it myself, then I shouldn't be allowed to receive letters."

—HERB KRAUS, Albuquerque, New Mexico

**NOMINATIONS** FOR NEXT YEAR'S BANISHMENT LIST are accepted Nov. 15 through Dec. 15. Copies of this banishment poster and/or the unicorn questing license (same size, copiously illustrated; with questing regulations on back) are 50 cents each. Subscriptions to THE WOODS-RUNNER, College quarterly with extensive letters-to-the editor

on Banishment Words, are \$3 the year; \$8 for three, in U.S.A. NOMINATORS named above are not necessarily the sole nominators of the banished words in question, but their citations seemed most worthy of quotation. A SUMMARY POSTER (22 x 17 inches, printed both sides) of banishments from 1976 to 1985 is available at \$2 for 2 copies.

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