

# BANISHED

1982

EIGHTH ANNUAL



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-, Mal-, or Over-Use, as Well as General Uselessness.



SPECIAL CITATION: The Hon. MALCOLM BALDRIGE, U. S. Secretary of Commerce, created Knight Sans Pareil of the Unicorn Quest.

**BANISHED!!! SIT ON IT • RETARDED and TERMINAL ILLNESS HARYADOONE? • PATRIATION • FIRST TIME EVER/ALL-TIME RECORD DESIGNER • REVENUE ENHANCEMENT • REPOSITORY • WORLD CLASS APPALL and OBVIOUSLY • HOT WATER HEATER • ALEXANDER HAIG**

MALCOLM BALDRIGE, U. S. Secretary of Commerce, has speeded the nation's commerce with Washington by fearless banishment from the Department of such phrases as "to liaison with," "to task out," "and that's what it's all about," more than two "alternatives" and "in terms of;"<sup>1</sup> and ordered his word processors (typewriters with pseudo brains) programmed to refuse to print them. For this and other heroic deeds he is dubbed the first KNIGHT SANS PAREIL OF THE UNICORN QUEST (with sword): Sir Malcolm of Potomac.

FIRST TIME EVER/ALL-TIME RECORD<sup>2</sup> – These two phrases were born on the sports pages, moved to page one, and were indecently exposed on the hallowed editorial pages. It is only a matter of time until they are united into a single monster of redundancy and inaccuracy.

CLASSIC – Every new tournament "in any sport is automatically labeled a 'classic' by its promoters." – Cynthia Pappas<sup>3</sup> – and WORLD CLASS which has come to mean everything . . . and nothing; from "salmon dish" (Detroit News Sunday Magazine) to "swindler" (Washington Post).

PATRIATE and PATRIATION – "Coined by Canadian Federal politicians after they discovered that 'repatriation' meant being returned to one's native land, and unfortunately didn't apply to our own constitution."<sup>4</sup> The Canadian government has asked the British Parliament to "patriate" a constitution for Canada, a document our neighbors to the north do not have, at the moment.

WORDS TO DECEIVE – REVENUE ENHANCEMENT<sup>5</sup> which simply means "increasing taxes;" OFF-SOURCING<sup>6</sup> for "importing;" and REPOSITORY<sup>7</sup> which can mean "dump."

RETARDED/TERMINAL ILLNESS – As being dangerously misleading and overemphatic statements. RETARD means "to gradually make smaller. I know that my daughter's brain will not get smaller. I also know that with proper stimulation she will be able to learn and to understand much more than we believe possible. Give the mentally handicapped a little help by banishing a very old word which we no longer apply in today's society."<sup>8</sup> TERMINAL ILLNESS is not "terminal" until the point of death. "Because of a serious illness – the active phase of which is usually fatal – I am now living with a 'chronic illness.' It is being successfully treated but cannot be cured."<sup>9</sup>

SIT ON IT – Teenager Dan Latimore says this is "one of the stupidest phrases in the English language." Dozens of our nominators agreed. So do we.<sup>10</sup>

HARYA DOONE? – "Is this," asks BOB CRAWFORD of New York City, "Lorna Doone's brother?" He ranks it with "gonna," and so say we all!

HOT WATER HEATER – "Since when does hot water need to be heated?"<sup>11</sup> How much longer must we perpetuate this scientific myth?

APPALL and OBVIOUSLY – ONE YEAR PROBATIONARY BANISHMENT Michele Mooney<sup>12</sup> stapled to her letter of nomination more than eight pages of sentences and paragraphs which she had clipped from newspapers (mostly, Los Angeles Times) which included these phrases. "Obviously," 205 times; "appalling," 132. She complains that this "shows a total lack of imagination on the part of the writers." As you may deduce, we, too, are distressed.

ALEXANDER HAIG, U. S. Secretary of State, because of his misuse and abuse of the English Language over an extended period (even longer, when listening), his convoluted syntax, and his apparent use of confusing English to avoid answering questions he wishes unanswered, is herewith FORBIDDEN THE USE OF ENGLISH (oral and written) and required to communicate in classical Latin for six months probation.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup>these nominations by the secretary as the worst of a much longer list have all been accepted by the Unicorn Hunters for 1982 banishment.

<sup>2</sup>Nominated by JOHN MATHESON of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. with the comment, "If a record stands for all-time, OK. But if it is broken tomorrow, or the day after, or the next year, or 1998, then the all-time doesn't stand the test of time.

<sup>3</sup>The initial game between two lackluster teams is advertised as the 'First Annual Boredom Classic' – CYNTHIA PAPPAS, Caldwell, N.J.

<sup>4</sup>The Sault (Ontario) Star in announcing winners of their word banishment elimination nominations. Nominator SUSAN METZGER added: "Everyone is sick of the word."

<sup>5</sup>Nominated by JOSEPH F. POWERS, Jr., Whitmore Lake, Mich.

<sup>6</sup>"If I buy an imported car I am a traitor. If Ford or GM buy parts in Haiti or Bangladesh, they are 'off-sourcing.'" – DONALD SMITH, Detroit.

<sup>7</sup>"Repository" in its use as a euphemism for "dump." DAN BMMES, KRSP Radio, Salt Lake City, Utah.

<sup>8</sup>CHRISTA BUCHAN of Regina, Sask, Canada

<sup>9</sup>"A friend, as I was recovering, encouraged me to look at words as the symbols they are. He pointed out that until the point of death a disease isn't terminal but only life threatening. I have found this picture easier to live with. Many people with serious illnesses might help themselves a lot if they could only appreciate how words can affect them. – E. DOLORES DICKEY, Thunder Bay, Ont.

<sup>10</sup>His teacher, JANICE MILLER of New London (Conn.) Senior High School, encouraged her class to submit nominations, as did teachers in many other schools. Almost all such nominations were excellent.

<sup>11</sup>Nominated by anonymous listener to ROB WESTABY, WOWO Radio, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

<sup>12</sup>of Los Angeles. Book Editor Art Seidenbaum noted on one of the pages, "Appalling, indeed." Collection assembled over seven months.

<sup>13</sup>Some of his favorite phrases: counterproductive (they aren't doing what I want them to do), value judgement (I don't agree), maturation (getting old), and: I think the issue is that we do have a tendency to indulge in episodic preoccupation, if you will, with one another on the strategic horizon.(?!?!)

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 (approximately same size) are 50 cents each. Subscriptions to THE WOODS-RUNNER, College quarterly and Unicorn Hunters meeting place, are \$2 the year; \$5 for three. The Banishment Poster is published annually in the magazine. Back issues are not available. NOMINATORS (above) are not necessarily the sole nominators of the words in question; but perhaps the most worthy of quotation

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