

Lake Superior State University

BANISHED 1990

MAXIMUM LEADER — "Nice try, General Noriega. It's dictator."
Name Withheld By Request
New York, New York

ETHICS BILL — "Congressional expression for 'pay raise.'"
Jerry Jones
Cincinnati, Ohio

A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE (several nominations) — "A mind is not a terrible thing; however, it is a terrible thing to waste a mind."
Maryann McKie
Troy, Idaho

FAX — New verb — "I hate to hear some one ask, 'Fax me a copy, will ya?'" (Editor: sounds like what Jack Webb was always seeking on "Dragnet." "Just the fax, ma'am." Will some company develop a faster fax, a super fax? A fax tax? A mad fax? OK, Max.)
Ronald R. Watcke
Detroit, Michigan

OXYMORONS

ALL EXCEPT — "Entirety can't have a minus."

CLIMB DOWN — "Climb is up. Down is descend."
Ben Szczesny
Muskegon, Michigan

LARGE SIZE PETITES — "If you can have large size small items, can you have small size large items?"
Beverly J. Welch
Holly, Michigan

RUSH HOUR — "Why rush? The traffic is barely moving."
Dave Summers
Holly, Michigan

DRUG CZAR — "How about anti-drug czar."
Ruth Hood
Warren, Michigan

ALMOST EXACTLY — Quoted from Gentlemen's Quarterly, September, 1989.
Bill Gould
Gladwin, Michigan

THESE ONES — "Makes me cringe . . . Why not say what you mean? These socks, these knees, or just plain these."
Nell Gaball
Marquette, Michigan

SUFFOCATING SUFFIXES

-BRATION
-IFIC
-AMATIC
-TOMIC — "Contrived suffixes to excite wanton spending." (Ed.: Attention car dealers, we're holding a "SUFF-AMATIC BANA-BRATION.")

-AHOLIC — "We have workaholic, spendaholic, shopaholic, cocoholic, foodaholic . . . popular psychobabble that should be buried alongside the arrogant intellectuals who revel in its use."
David O'Connor
Willoughby, Ohio

(OK, David. Let's fight back. How about: FAXAHOLIC, SHAREAHOLIC, HELPAHOLIC, PSYCHAHOLIC, EXPERTISEAHOLIC, FUZZAHOLIC, BUZZAHOLIC, BABBLEAHOLIC, TELEVANGEAHOLIC, LIPOSUCTIONAHOLIC?)

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.

YO — "As in 'YO, DUDE!' " (Ed.: Remains correct when repeated, yo-yo.)

SHARING AND SPECIAL — "Used to signify acceptance of any bizarre or revolting admission by anyone, as in 'Thanks for sharing your feelings. That was real special.'" (Ed.: Translation — Public blurring of banalities.)
M.P. Clark
Cincinnati, Ohio

MYSELF — "Boofy, Weenie and myself saw another flying saucer last night." Incorrect. Use "I." (Ed.: You should check the dictionary for yourself.)
Helen Larson
Creighton, Nebraska

VIS-A-VIS — "Used inappropriately by those who don't use English properly, let alone French."
Larry McConnell
Sturgis, Michigan

PHRASES THAT FAZE US

THE MORE YOU BUY, THE MORE YOU SAVE — "Well, honey, how much should I buy?" "Gee, I don't know sugarplum. Just keep buying until you think you have saved enough."
Rick Duerson
Escanaba, Michigan

POLITICAL STRONGMAN: "This should be dumped before some university develops a new degree combining political science with physical education and weight training. They might even add the authenticating word 'engineer' to attract additional students, resulting in 'Bachelor of Political Strongman Engineering.'"

MUTE POINT — Should be MOOT. (Ed.: Unless you're a mime using pencil, or a bird-hunting dog.)
Bill Ziegler
Troy, Michigan

FROM THE DESK OF — "Note pads with this vanity caption. I have seen a lot of desks . . . never one that can write a note."
From the hand of: David O'Connor
Willoughby, Ohio

FILMED BEFORE A LIVE STUDIO AUDIENCE — "The alternative is a bit grisly."
Ruth A. Hood
Warren, Michigan

BEST KEPT SECRET — "What has happened to confidentiality? It seems that all over the country, important secrets are being revealed; from the West Virginia official state highway map — 'America's best-kept secret; from a Columbia University brochure — Columbia University's 'best kept secret(s) are the great job opportunities at Columbia Dining Services. Or 'one of snowmobiling's best kept secrets: Marquette, Michigan.' Are we really hearing confessions of previously incompetent advertising? Or desperate attempts to create new categories for the Guinness Book of Records? Or what?" (Ed.: We're not sure, folks. The answer must be another one of those "best kept secrets.")
Jim, Linda, David and Karen Belote
Duluth, Minnesota

REDUNDANCY ALERT

24 HOURS A DAY
John Rosevear
Milford, Michigan

"The last execution in New Jersey took place in New Jersey." (No kidding?) submitted by Paul Austin, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, quoted from The New York Times, an article by Peter Kerr, February 17, 1989.

CLOSE PROXIMITY
NEW INNOVATION
COMPLETELY SURROUND
FOOT PEDAL
Maryann McKie
Troy, Idaho

EXACT SAME — Exactly. (Editor: As in "She is the exact same size as I am, large petite." This phrase was noted in our 1981 list under "Redundancy Alert." Exact Same now gets a "red alert" and an appropriate banishment.)
Ben Szczesny
Muskegon, Michigan

OUTSTATE MICHIGAN — "This seemingly-innocuous word (OUTSTATE) grates on my sensibilities like fingernails across a blackboard . . . The implication being that Detroit IS Michigan and the rest of the Michigan land mass is out of the State . . . What's Detroit? Instate? . . . Big city newspapers and "downstate" legislators are the worst offenders . . . even the Governor is guilty! It's time us "UP-STATERS" band together and put "OUT-STATE" in its final resting place. Buried forever!" (OUT OF STATE)
Yvonne Carlson
Ludington, Michigan

LIPOSUCTION — "Ugly, ugly word; often mispronounced . . . visions of four lips stuck together, or an infected lip being treated, or having verbal influence, pull in high places."
Nadine Clark
Dearborn Heights, Michigan

NON VERBS

GRANDFATHER — "We can grandfather those items in the labor agreement."

IMPACT (The most nominations) — "The effect a sledge hammer has on a brick wall, or a car on a utility pole. Those who use it otherwise probably don't know the difference between 'effect' and 'affect.'" (Ed.: Too many times we're subjected to a radio or television news reader saying something like: "We'll soon know how we're to be impacted by the rising costs of groceries." Perhaps the impact of a good slap in the head would curtail such irritating misuse of language.)
Dave Summers
Holly, Michigan

MESSENGER — "Sorry, but you cannot 'messenger' anything, anywhere. Messenger is a noun. Why not use a simple verb, 'send' or 'deliver?'"
Carolyn P. Beeker
Charlotte, N.C.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

WANTED: PART-TIME PERSON — "What is the person the rest of the time?" (A part-time squid?)
Janet K. Brice
Baraboo, Wisconsin

MINOR EMERGENCY CLINIC — "Either something is an emergency, or it isn't."
Carol A. McClendon
Fort Worth, Texas

"ESTATES" IN THE NAMES FOR MOBILE HOME PARKS — "Refinery View Mobile Home Estates."

'N'STUFF, added to the name of a business — "B.J. Winston's Fine Jewelry 'n' Stuff."

SHOPPE for SHOP — "VINNIE'S COLLISION AND AUTO BODY SHOPPE."

NUMBER AND GENDER OF THE OWNERS IN THE NAME: "TWO GUYS' FUNERAL HOME."
Robert M. Anderson
Chelsea, Michigan

BUREAUCRAP

During the past decade, so many folks have written to complain about nonsensical bureaucratic jargon that we have created an additional category for the 1990s, obviously named after the mythical Thomas Crapper, the waste management expert.

From the Empire State, New York, this evil example was submitted by Robert B. Leffler, East Nassau, New York, excerpted from a 29-page report from that state's OMRDD, Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities: "What are the implications of these empirical findings about the service continuum for more normative standards regarding program models, eligibility criteria, and the appropriateness of the fit between the needs of a person with a developmental disability and the programmatic settings available?" Mr. Leffler clarifies by writing: "My conclusion is that the empirical evidence, considering normative standards in this programmatic setting suggests that OMRDD has achieved a continuum of remarkable consistency in obfuscation."

Mr. Leffler also sent us a copy of a publication of the New York State Office of Mental Health, dated January 1987, drawing our attention to this text: "The environmental revitalization program is a multifaceted initiative that coordinates the delivery of resources for the improvement of the patient environment at Office of Mental Health facilities." Thank goodness there is a picture to explain the text. It shows workers developing a "floor plan layout for dayroom furniture." Mr. Leffler explains the text, "They're buying new furniture."

NOMINATIONS for next year's Banishment list will be accepted Nov. 15 through Dec. 15, 1990. Nominations listed above are not necessarily a complete list of banished expressions, but these nominations seemed most worthy of quotation. This poster is available for \$2. A Summary poster (22 x 17 inches printed both sides) of banishments from 1976 to 1988 only is available for \$5. We are working on an All-Time Banishment calendar.