

Bad Words? Whatever!

IF YOU RESPOND "WITH ATTITUDE" when people berate you for doing "La Macarena," steer clear of Lake Superior State U., Mich., because you've been banished. Lake State included "with attitude" and "La Macarena" among oft-repeated phrases like "phone tag" and "as if" in this year's List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness.

The list of the most annoying words takes nominations from students and teachers at colleges and high schools from across the country. The public relations office furnishes the list to the media on New Year's Day and posts it on the school's Web site (www.lssu.edu).

Thirty additions made the list this year, including "you go, girl," "aromatherapy," "downtime" and "get a life," which had escaped the

List's wrath until now. The *Clueless*-inspired "whatever" led the pack, but political buzz phrases like "building a bridge" irked respondents, too.

So how did the smallest public university in Michigan come to guard the queen's English?

According to Tom Pink, director of Lake State public relations, the idea struck the former director in 1976. "Bill Rabe was great at coming up with wacky stuff to get the

school some attention. When someone started making fun of the queen's honor list, he got the idea for a 'disonored' list."

Ironically, the claim to fame goes largely unnoticed by the students. "I've been here three years and I didn't even know we had the List until this year," says junior Tammy Goss. "Actually, I've never seen it before today."

Goss says one more catchphrase should have made it: touch base. "You can only have your base touched so many times before it gets annoying."

By Maggie Berry, U. of California, Davis/Illustration by Dwayne Wright, East Carolina U.



Funny Money

DOUg CLARKE HAS NOTHING AGAINST DEAD PRESIDENTS, but he'd rather not carry them in his wallet. "Our money is so unattractive," says the Virginia Commonwealth U. senior. "My professor always says we're going into the 21st century with 19th century money in our pockets."



Clarke's professor, Philip Meggs of the communication art and design department, feels so strongly about his statement that last October he challenged his students to redesign the boring buck. "We need money that reflects the creative potential of our times," Meggs says.

More than 300 students submitted entries, and the top five were chosen by student vote. In January, the winners presented their designs to the

U.S. treasurer in Washington, D.C.

Designs ranged from wacky, colorful collages of modern images like subways to bills that resembled comic strips. Others chose to stick to more traditional notes with American icons. Senior Sandra Gayle Wade used old standby George Washington but added a twist — Martha. "There have always been powerful women behind our presidents, but they never get recognition," Wade says.

Senior Erickson Diga's dollar focused on making love, not war. He added the symbol of peace, a white dove. "Green is now associated with greed and crime. I hope we're moving toward that kind of [peaceful] society."

Treasury officials were impressed, but the bills were no sale. Officials say changing the currency is harder than robbing a bank. It's usually done only to enhance security, not looks. It also requires Congressional approval.

But that's not stopping Meggs and his cool-cash crusaders. The next stop on their currency campaign is 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Meggs says, "We're going to have to get the president involved."

By Maggie Welter, James Madison U., Va./Illustrations courtesy of professor Philip Meggs, Virginia Commonwealth U. From top to bottom created by: Erickson Diga, Michael Courtney, Barbara Spies.

Kingpin

BOY, THAT GUY HAS SOME BALLS. AT LEAST that's the general consensus among the pins at Sun Valley Lanes in west Lincoln, Neb., since Jeremy Sonnenfeld waltzed through in February.

Game after game after game, the U. of Nebraska, Lincoln, sophomore threw strike after strike after strike — making him the first person in the world (that's right ...

in the world) to bowl a perfect 900-point, three-game series at a sanctioned tournament.

"I just couldn't do anything wrong," Sonnenfeld says of his super bowl experience.

A dedicated pinhead since age 12, Sonnenfeld says until this competition, the Junior Husker Tournament, 826 was his highest series tally.

The source of the streak? Sonnenfeld claims it was a ring that brought him good luck. His girlfriend bought him the ring in Las Vegas last summer, and he won \$30,000 gambling while he was wearing it.

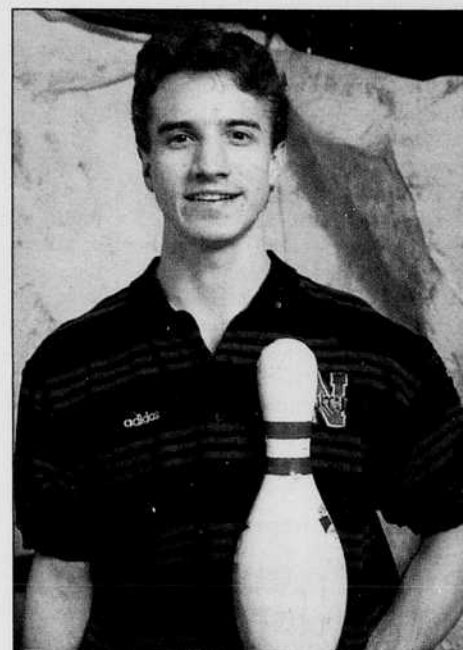
One week after the ring helped him nab

900, Sonnenfeld thought it was time to return the favor. During the American Bowling Congress celebration in his honor — where he was awarded a diamond-studded gold ring — Sonnenfeld proposed to his lady luck.

"I thought it was kind of appropriate that if I was getting a ring, she should, too," he says.

Just one question: Will they walk down the aisle or the alley?

By Lynda Twardowski, Michigan State U. / Photo by Matt Bruggeman, U. of Nebraska, Lincoln



Bowled over.

The Buzz

• Just when you thought being a student was the most expensive thing in America, the nation's prisoners have you beat. An analysis of federal and state budgets by the Justice Policy Institute showed that taxpayers cough up \$22,000 to \$25,000 per year to incarcerate an offender. That's about the same as annual tuition costs for the most expensive colleges in the country. The study also reports that spending on prisons in America exceeds spending on higher education. From 1987 to 1995, spending on prisons increased by 30 percent, whereas higher education spending dropped by 18 percent.

• Students will take the money and run from a good cause for a good price. According to a poll conducted by Cornell U. professor Robert Frank, students would accept job offers from companies they perceived as socially irresponsible if they were well-compensated for it. For example, it would take an average of \$37,000 in additional salary to lure students away from the Sierra Club to work for the National Rifle Association. The poll of Cornell seniors also concluded that males were more likely to take the payoff than females.

• A new bill filed in the U.S. House of Representatives in February may pull the wool off the eyes of the public when it comes to campus crime. The Accuracy in Campus Crime Reporting Act of 1997 (H.R. 715) would open campus police logs, deny confidentiality for students accused of a crime and open administrative discipline procedures.