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FRAGGING THE FROGGIES

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What's wrong with pay TV, jet, jingle, discount and such words? Plenty, says the French government. They represent the invasion of pure French by Franglais, as do long-established words from English such as smoking and weekend. M. Mitterand's government now wants to fine Frenchmen the equivalent of seven dollars each time one of these words is used; it has legally banned some 126 of them in all. Sacre bleu! Howard Smith (of "Scenes" in The Village Voice, 8 Mar 1983) suggests we retaliate by weeding out of English such French words as laissez-faire and café and such expressions as c'est la vie ("tough titty"). He would replace raconteur with "big mouth," femme fatale with "killer bitch," and cinema verité with "black and white films made without a tripod." I see (as the French would say) him coming with his big wooden shoes ("where he's coming from, what he's up to") and wonder what Word Ways readers would suggest we substitute for the French words and expressions given below. There are no right answers in the back of the magazine this time - use your imagination!

accouche ment
cabaret
cinema
adieu
camaraderie
coiffeur
agent provocateur
canapé
comme ci, comme ça
à la carte
carafe
comme il faut
avant-garde
carte blanche
concierge
belles-lettres
cause célèbre
connoisseur
à la carte
cause célèbre
contretemps
bête noir
caucun à son goût
coté bleu
bistro
chaise longue
cordon bleu
bonbon
chalet
coquette
bon mot
chanteuse
cordon bleu
bon voyage
chasseur
couche de ballet
boutique
chargé d'affaires
coup d'État
bric-à-brac
dernière
chef d'oeuvre