HYDROMORONS

ANIL,
Perth, Australia

Hydromorons complement oxymorons. (H and O are the two extremes on the chemical reactivity or redox scale.) In contrast to the glaring self-contradiction of an oxymoron, a hydromoron is a glaring redundancy like each of the three pairs in this telling headline:

BLIND FAITH FALSE PRETENSES WREAK HAVOC

It’s fertile ground for word play. You might even be able to use hydromorons to wreak order. Many more examples can be found in the book by Richard Kallan cited in the November issue (10-284), which I haven’t seen yet and so may be repeating some of his examples. Anyhoo, here are my favourites, unfortunately laden with snide remarks. I, snide? *Inside!* [sNIDE]

AD NAUSEAM TV ads, junk mail, www, etc (but not skywriting, which is uplifting)
BAD DEBT Yet, even after 2008, “gurus” say you’re an idiot if you’re not in debt.
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE Sweeping schmaltz for all you beautiful cynics out there.
CHINESE PUZZLE Today’s leading enigma, more popular than sudoku.
CLEANING WOMAN An untidy woman is hard to find. I know, I tried.
DEAD END But if time travelled backwards we could have a dead start.
DIRTY OLD MEN All of us. So there. Sorry to have blown the whistle, geezers.
KNOCKOUT DROPS Down with gravity! Even if you’re knocked *up* by Popeye.
Hydromorons

ENDANGERED SPECIES Any species, the way we’re blindly headed. See headline in intro.

FREE SPIRIT Not liquor of course, which costs plenty, but equally philosophical.

HAPPY IDIOT Only an idiot could be happy today. Cheer idiocy, grinning in the face of disaster. So to be happy be an idiot. Stay out of debt.

MOTHER SUPERIOR Child Inferior accepts this natural pecking order—in theory!

PETTY OFFICER Sorry, Officer, I didn’t mean you, just the others

PIGGY BANK Where I put my money has a second, leaky slot in the rear.

POLICE FORCE The Police Dept. saw Star Wars and decided to call itself The Force.

ROBBER BARON That’s the whole point.

SELF-CENTERED Anatomically correct.

STANDARD DEVIATION Nobody’s prefect. Deviation from the standard is standard.

VIRGIN BIRTH We’re all natural born virgins.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE Men suffer women and vice versa. Both suffer little children.

SMALL FRY Except at Big Fries small fries serve large fries, oxymoronically†.

† Warning! Hydros and oxys should be mixed with great care. They can explode in your face like rocket fuel and drown your smithereens in watermorons.