

COLLOQUY

Webster's Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections and comments about earlier articles appearing in Word Ways. Comments received at least seven weeks prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

Several readers suggested ugly words for Espy's list. The editor's daughter Susan reported that OSTRICH came to her in a dream as an ugly word. Philip Cohen suggested words similar to SLURB and SLOBBER, and Peter Newby detested SPOKESPERSON. Jeff Grant unloaded GLITCH, AARRGHH (in OED Second Edition), AWFULLER, CATGUT, PSYCHOBABBLE, VIVISECT, BUMF, WARTWORT, CANCER, GOD-DAMNEDEST, SCHMUCK, SCUMBAG, FAECES, AUSCHWITZ, UGLILY, YUKKY and DUMMKOPF, and, like the editor, awarded the palm to GOBBLE-DYGOOK.

In May 1990 Chris Cole presented word records based on Webster's Third Unabridged. A more thorough survey of this tome has resulted in several improvements and additions:

Longest palindromes: GOOG (for gag), PEEWEEP (for pæep), SEMEMES (for pep), DEVOVED (for bob), SEITIES (for rotor), PEEWEEP⁻ (for ewe), and double-central-letter records SUCCUS, DEGGED, HALLAH, SAMMAS and TIPPIT

Longest words without e,et HUMUHUMUNUKUNUKUAPUAAS, eta COCCID-
OIDIOMYCOSIS, etai PHYLLOSPONDYLOUS, etain CHLOROPHYLLOUS,
etains PROMORPHOLOGY

Longest words without ab HYDROXYDESOXYCORTICOSTERONE, abcd
PHILOPROGENITIVENESS, abcdefgh SUPPOSITITIOUSLY, abcdefghijk
TUMULTUOUSLY, abcdefghijklm NONSUPPORTS, abcdefghijklmn STU-
POROUS, abcdefghijklmnopq SUSURRUS, abcdefghijklmnopqrs TUTTY

Vowels: longest all-vowel IEIE, longest aeiou once ENTWICKLUNGS-
ROMAN, longest aeiouy once VENTRICULOGRAPHY, shortest aeiouy
once OXYURIDAE, shortest aeiou once EULOGIA, longest vowels
in order ABSTENTIOUS

Longest univocalics: TATHAGATAGARBHAS, STRENGTHLESSNESSES, IN-
STINCTIVISTIC, LOXOPHODONTS, STRULDBRUGS, RHYTHMS

Alternating vowel-consonant: HYPOVITAMINOSISES, excluding y ALUM-
INOSILICATES

Longest one-consonant word ASSESSEES, two-consonant SENSUOUSNESSES

Most different letters repeated in word: dehimoprs PSEUDOHERMA-
PHRODITISM

Word shapes: narrow ERRONEOUSNESSES, vertical symmetry HOMOTAXIA

Typewriter words: longest middle row SHAKALSHAS, right hand HYPO-
LIMNION, alternating hands LEUCOCYTOZOANS

Longest in chemical symbols NoNRePreSeNtATiONaLiSm

State-name abbreviation words: CONVALLARIAS

Ted Clarke correctly notes that the list of **-gry** words in the OED can be markedly extended if one does not limit oneself to the bold-face entries (as was done in the November 1992 article). Others can be found as italicized examples, or even in the quotations themselves. A sampling: FIRE-ANGRY, DOG-HUNGRY, HEART-ANGRY, and LAND-HUNGRY.

Jeff Grant adds CARBONEL, a French surname, as an A-transdeletion of BARCELONA. He notes CAROL BEAN on the Pencarrow (New Zealand) electoral rolls, and is searching for EARL BACON or CLARA BONE. Susan Thorpe points out that BARCELONA nicely reverses to the macaronic **an olé crab**. For female competitors in 1996 she proposes an anagrammatic message:

Don't sin, lass, do take care, prepare well
Please keep world's records in Atlanta

Ted Clarke writes "[The use of computers in logology] is the root cause of the differing views of Leonard Gordon and my compatriot, Peter Newby. The former uses a computer while the latter appears to disdain their use. I cannot really believe that he is such a Luddite, although I recently had a letter, from the Crossword Editor of a leading national newspaper, which stated his preference for paper and pencil. I suspect that these attitudes are either expressed with tongue in cheek, seeking to rile the addressee, or to cover the embarrassment of appearing 'not to be with it'. So far as I am concerned I welcome the challenge, in my 67th year, of trying to get the most out of my remaining span by trying to keep up with technological progress. I have been an active puzzlist for over 50 years and I have found immense pleasure in trying to cajole the computer into displaying its capacity for rattling through the drudgery of some puzzle-solving."

Jeff Grant adds AJ an adze (Dictionary of Jamaican English), SEJ a wasting decay that comes on unseen, associated with a demon (Encyc. of Religion and Ethics), REFFEJ Sussex variant of **refuge** (EDD), and SKROWJ variant of **scrouge**, to squeeze (EDD), as additions to Dan Tilque's J-terminated words.

Ted Clarke adds to Dave Morice's Reversal Definitions HORSE CHEST-NUT chestnut horse, OUTBALANCE balance out, WATER TABLE table water, CHEESE-HEAD head cheese.

The spelling gremlin was active in the November issue. Jeff Grant notes various corrections: BACONER (not balconer) p 222, SUPPOSITORY ROT: I SOP PUS p 223, PIMPERLIMPIMP p 224, BROBDINGNAG-IAN p 225, THĒ/HOE/EEL word square p 242, FEMTOTERAKILOWATT p 243. In the words of the OED - aarrghh!