SOME NARRATIVE ALPHAMETICS

JAMES MAYFIELD
Silver Spring, Maryland

In an alphametic, letters are substituted for numbers in an arithmetic problem, and the reader is invited to find the solution. If the letters spell out some sort of a message, so much the better; the oldest one known, SEND + MORE = MONEY, was crafted by H.E. Dudeney in 1924. (The term *alphametic* was coined by J.A.H. Hunter in 1955.) Narrative alphametics have occasionally appeared in Word Ways, including "Literate Cryptarithmetic" by Peter Newby in November 1989, and "Literary Cryptarithmetic by Computer" by Leonard Gordon in May 1990.

A special case of narrative alphametics are doubly-true alphametics, in which the narrative consists of a correct arithmetical statement, such as THREE + FOUR = SEVEN, with the solution 28566 + 7495 = 36061. Mentioned in Borgmann's *Language on Vacation*, these have also appeared in Word Ways, in "Doubly-True Alphametics" by Leonard Gordon in February 1994.

The following narrative alphametics have unique solutions and are soluble by hand without excessive enumeration (although in some cases they may require quite a bit of analysis). To the best of my knowledge, all are original. I call the reader's attention to two with logological features:

> STARTER + RESTART = ANAGRAM
> BEAR + RARE + ERE = RHYME

ADVANCED + STUDENTS = CALCULUS
AGASSI + GRAF = TENNIS
ALICE + RABBIT = HATTER
ALLAH + ISLAM = MECCA
AMERICAN + COMEDIAN = ROSEANNE
AMES + AGENCY = SPYING
ANCIENT + JAPANESE = PAINTING
ANSEL + ADAMS = NATURE
BARBIE + MAKER = MATTEL
BATMAN + COMIC = GOTHAM

BELOVED + NOVELS = TOLSTOY
BLACK + SILK = JACKET
BLOOD + BODY = MURDER
BOB + DYLAN = SONGS
BORDELLO + REPORTED = DOWNTOWN
BRILLIANT + TERRIBLE = BEAUTIFUL
BRUTUS + STABS = CAESAR (my best one)
CANAL + TOWN = VENICE
COLLEGE + CLASSICS = SOCRATES
COOK + SHISH = KEBABS

COPPER + COINAGE = PENNIES
COSA + NOSTRA = CRIMES
CRACK + COCAINE = ILLEGAL
CREOLE + SOUL = ZYDECO
DAILY + MIRROR = LONDON
DALAI + LAMA = TEMPLE
DEAD + SINGER = GARCIA (pun intended)
ENGINEER + DESIGNED = HARDWARE
ENGLISH + CHANNEL = ISLANDS
FANNIE + FREDDIE = LENDERS (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mae)

FICTION + BRONTE = SISTERS
FRENCH + ARABIC = CHINESE
FRESH + FISH = DINNER
FRODO + MORDOR = GOLLUM
GEORGE + WALLACE = ALABAMA
GRACE + SLICK = SINGER
HEALTH + CARE = SYSTEM
HOOSIERS + REDSHIRTS = ATHLETES
HORROR + BORIS = KARLOFF
HOSPITAL + PATIENTS = ILLNESSES

HOSTS + PAT = VANNA
JAZZ + MUSIC = ALBUMS
LIBERAL + WILLIAM = BRENNAN
LIVED + DIED = COFFIN
LUXURY + RESORT = HOTELS
MARIE + CURIE = RADIUM
MILITANT + SIKHISM = PAKISTAN
MURROW + CAREER = NEWSMAN
NASCAR + RACING = DRIVERS
NAZI + HORROR = DACHAU

ORIGINAL + COLONIAL = AMERICAN
OSCAR + ACTOR = LEMMON
OUTLAW + WILLIE = NELSON
PEARL + HARBOR = BOMBED
PIANO + ANDRE = PREVIN
PIANO + PIECE = CHOPIN
PINTA + NINA = VOYAGE
POOPER + SCOOPER = CANINES
PUNCHES + OPPONENT = KNOCKOUT
PURPLE + ROSE = VIOLET (doubly true)

RABIES + FATAL = DISEASE
RACE + TRACK = JOCKEY
READ + WRITE = POETRY
REAGAN + CARTER = DEBATE
RIGOR + STIFF = CORPSE (this is a good solve, too)
RIPARIAN + CREVICES = SERPENTS
RUBEOLA + RUBELLA = MEASLES

SADDLE + LASSO = COWBOY
SEED + BEDS = BLOOM
SEVEN + SEAS = VOYAGE

SEVERE + STORM = TWISTER
SINGH + SHOT = GANDHI (Indira)
STAGE + SATIRE = BRECHT
SUGAR + YOUR = COFFEE
SURNAME + RECORDS = MORMONS
TAGGERS + PAINTING = GRAFFITI
TARIK + AZIZ = IRAQI
TASTE + SWEET = COCOA
TEACHER+ STUDENT = RESEARCH
TUTU + WON = PRIZE (1984 Nobel Peace Prize)

WAIKIKI + HAWAII = SURFERS
WILD + SWEET = EXOTIC
WOMAN + BARES = BREAST

And here are a few subtraction narratives:

BUTLER – ACTOR = GABLE
COSTA – RICA = ARIAS
EROTIC – LOVE = SCENES
EXPENSIVE – PASADENA = VERANDAS
FABLED – LEGEND = NESSIE (Loch Ness monster)
GORILLAS – DESIGNED = LINGERIE (a *singerie* is a monkey trick)
KAREEM – ABDUL = JABBAR
PRICELESS – ARTISTIC = TREASURES
REVEALING – PARISIAN = NEGLIGEE
WATER – POLO = POOL

Finally, did you know that BILL MURRAY and EDDIE MURPHY sum to GILDA RADNER?