

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 one month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

Rod P. Selden's entry in the *Games* magazine Word Marathon contest ("In Search of Perfection", November 1984 **Word Ways**) finished in a five-way tie for fifth place. The winning substitute-letter transposal chain was devised by Michael Wolfberg of Concord, Massachusetts. Although aesthetically marred by repeated words (allowed by the rules), it is so remarkable that **Word Ways** has reproduced it below for the delectation of logologists. In each word, the capitalized letter replaces the underlined letter in the preceding word:

terminations, Cremationist, Gastrocnemii, creMationism, craniO-
tomies, eXorcisation, Viscerotonia, consPirative, iNcrepations,
incineRators, contrariWise, rHeticorians, orcheStrinas, cErato-
rhines, secretionY, reFectorians, necroLatries, interlocKers,
necrolAtries, celeBrations, neUroblastic, subJoctional, Discount-
able, eluoclodations, unsocialized, elucidaoTions, eQuinooctials

Can logologists construct a closed substitute-letter transposal chain of 26 words, all words different, and all 26 letters introduced in turn? in both directions simultaneously?

Dmitri Borgmann adds DIHYDROXYCHOLECALCIFEROL and PHOSPHAT-IDYLETHANOLAMINE, two 24-letter words from Webster's Third Addenda, to the long-ago May 1972 list of the longest dictionary words. He also notes the hyphenated PRESENTATIVE-REPRESENTATIVE from Funk & Wagnalls, and ECCLESIASTICO-STATISTICAL, MONARCHICO-ARISTOCRATICAL, and NICENO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN from Webster's Second.

Tom Pulliam proposes two more words in Webster's in which all 24 permutations of four different letters are found: ELECTROTELE-THERMOMETER (e,o,r,t) and INTESTINOINTESTINAL (e,i,n,t). Dmitri Borgmann adds the hyphenated examples URETERO-URETEROSTOMIES (e,o,r,t) and NIEVIE-NIEVIE-NICK-NACK (e,i,n,v); for a fuller account of how to look for such words, see his "Three Miraculous Solutions" in this issue.

The minimum-length word containing all 24 permutations of four different letters is not 13, as asserted in "All Letter-Orders in a Word" in November, but 12. Eight patterns for such words have been identified, all with a 4-3-3-2 letter distribution, and all with the double letter appearing in the fourth and ninth positions:

abcdacbadcba abcdabcadbac abcdacbadbca abcdacbadcab
 abcdabcadcba abcdabcbdacb abcdabcbadca abcdabcbdcab

Can readers find any more? Are patterns possible not satisfying these conditions?

In the same article, the editor asserted that no Websterian 13-letter word using only four different letters exists. Dmitri Borgmann quickly reminded him of SENSELESSNESS in Language on Vacation. WAHIAWA, HAWAII is a sizable city on Oahu, listed both in Webster's Second and Webster's New Geographical Dictionary, and KINNICKINNICK is an Ohio village in the 1984 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide. BIBLIA ABIBLIA, listed in Webster's Second, is a term for books that are not books. Longer words include the dictionary plural SENSELESSNESSES and the non-dictionary MISS MISSISSIPPIES, a term that could collectively refer to the 1959, 1960 and 1980 winners of the Miss America pageant.

The Word Wurcher adds FERTILIZER (i.e., begetter) to FERTILIZER (i.e., manure) to "Life-Cycle Recycle," but adds "Most of the life-cycle from/to's sound as though they had been dreamt up during the Happy Hour at Camozzi's Saloon."

Dmitri Borgmann notes the odd names of ELSEWHERE LANE and WHERE ELSE LANE, two streets in Milwaukie, Oregon. Alan Frank found SELDOM GOOD PASTURE ROAD on the Greater Boston street map. None of these appears in the 1908 Post Office Guide.

Ed Wolpow believes that Charlie Bostick should have given the source of his Celestial Shaggy Dog and Two Bilingual Jokes to avoid the inference that they were original with him. His comment on the French Bilingual was "Six!", echoed by Sam Edelston's "Cease! 'Nuf [of] dis!" Mary Louise Gilman enjoyed both, and plans to reprint one in the National Shorthand Reporter. John Henrick adds "Everyone to whom I have shown the two bilingual jokes has enjoyed them greatly."

Ed Wolpow points out that letter-changes, such as bad-bag-ban-bar-bat-bay, are special cases of Charlie Bostick's Collinear Words.

F O U R T E E N
 I | E | G H T | L | O
 F | F O U R | T E N
 T | I | T W E L V E
 E | V | W | S E V E N
 E | E | O | I | N | I N E
 N | S I X T E E N

Philip Cohen notes that Charlie Bostick's numerical crossword was published in the April 1982 issue of Crossword. Alfreda Blanchard's improvement, shown at the left, appeared in the January 1983 issue of the same magazine. All the integers from one through sixteen (except for thirteen) occur in this grid.

Dmitri Borgmann suggests that Jeff Grant should have included QQ in his "Q Palindromes" - the Acronyms, Initialisms and Abbreviations Dictionary (Gale) defines this variously as an abbreviation for quaque or quoque in medicine, Questionable Questionnaires, Queen's Quarterly, Aerovias Quisqueyana, and Quantile-Quantile. Is the Argentine town NEUQUEN the only internal-Q

palindrome?

Mark Isaak of Palo Alto, California has added 34 more long-E sounds to "The Ultimate Homonym Group", and Dmitri Borgmann suggested three that Isaak overlooked:

A- do-sa-do (DOEseeDOE)	IDHE ceilidhe (KAYlee)
-A- dos-a-dos	IER loup-cervier (LOOsee VEE)
..A- dos-à-dos	ILH Anouilh (aNUUee)
E Beroë (RERuwee)	ILLE jeune fille (zhun FEE)
E urdé (URdee)	IS- gris-gris (GREEgree)
EE urdée	IT' Dulong and Petit's law (-puTEEZ-)
EG impregn	IZ Agassiz trawl
EGH Raleigh	J fjord
ER catercorner (KADee-)	LLI Gallinazo (GAAeeNAAsoe)
ER- cater-corner	LLI' Bernoulli's theorem (berNUUeez-)
ET chalet (SHALEe)	O geoduck (GUUeeduk)
EU grand jeu (gran ZHEE)	OIX chamoix
EZ rendezvous	RTHEA northeast (norEEST)
'l l'istesso tempo	THEA northeast
'l Isma 'ili (izmaaEElee)	UEY plaguey
..I caïque (kaaEEK)	UILL guillotine
I calesín (KALuSEEN)	YIE brulyie (BRUULee)
IAE mediaeval	d,l (DEE-el)
IDH ceilidh (KAYlee)	

For good measure, Isaak appended four more sounds produced by X: TSH paixtle, KH xat, S ixtle, and W Latinxua (LATnwaa). He concedes "The last one is iffy. One could say that the X is silent and the U makes the W sound." The Word Wurcker writes "...one can take any foreign word whose orthography represents a more or less English-like sound .. and say 'Look, Ma, ain't this a weird way of writing this sound?'"

George H. Roberts professes bafflement by Louis Phillips' "Apple-Sauce Chronicles" movie title "Hair, starring James Beard and Fuzzy St. Knight". He thinks that the latter character is an inadvertent meld of Fuzzy Knight and Al "Fuzzy" St. John.

Mary Hazard follows up the November Colloquy with some more real-life ambiguous headlines from magazines and Rochester papers:

POPULATION STUDIES AGE PREMATURELY are these studies of the population, which are going out-of-date too soon, or is an unspecified group carrying out gerentological studies before they are supposed to?

JAPAN PLANS TO LOOK TO THE STARS FROM HAWAII Japanese actresses don't fill the bill?

BANKS TO GIVE UP TODAY a new financial crisis [Dennis Banks, Indian leader]

MARIJUANA SEIZED IN RUSH haste makes waste? [Rush township]

LIGHT TURNOUT EXPECTED TODAY let's conserve energy

Kyle Corbin answers the alphabetic word-chain query in the November **Word Ways** with the 39-letter ABC defog hijack elm no PDQ rest up TV waxy zoo, an improvement of three. However, purists may object to words such as ABC that are merely concatenations of letters pronounced in sequence, even though listed as nouns in Webster's Third. His Official Scrabble Players Dictionary lists, at 39 letters apiece, are less controversial:

aby,cod,ef,ghi,jack,limn,opaquer,stun,vow,ox,oyez
lazy,ox,wave,uts,or,quip,on,milk,jig,hog,fed,cobra

Two more oxymorons from Philip Cohen: **actual potential** and **solo concert** ("so common nowadays as to hardly raise an eye-brow"). Louis Phillips asks "Is spendthrift a one-word example?"

Dmitri Borgmann augments Ed Wolpov's "Flora Americana" with 12 plants possessing genus names apparently related to American states: Coloradoa and Utahia (family Cactaceae); Georgia, Montaña and Wyomingia (family Compositae); Hawaiiara (family Orchidaceae); Louiseania (family Rosaceae); Mainea (family Trigoniaceae); Michiea (family Epacridaceae); Nebra (family Nyctaginaceae); Vermontea (family Flacourtiaceae); and Washingtonia (family Umbelliferae). These are all found in A Dictionary of the Flowering Plants and Ferns (Cambridge University Press; 1966), by J.C. Willis, 7th edition revised by H.K. Airy Shaw.

On Henry Burger's Wordtree, The Word Wurcher comments that he thought this sort of stuff went out with Dalgarno's Ars Signorum in 1661.

In "Infinite-Tile Scrabble" in the November issue, the word BENZ-DIOXDIAZINE was misspelled. For the record, the diagram below details the order in which a Scrabble board is tiled with Zs (or Qs) to maximize the total score (50,210); I am indebted to Alan Frank for this tour de force.

208	208	208	208	201	200	199	208	198	197	58	208	140	196	208
189	175	150	149	148	147	146	145	144	143	57	97	139	177	180
188	158	141	109	108	107	106	105	104	103	56	96	136	137	138
187	157	116	101	70	69	68	67	66	65	55	95	98	99	100
186	156	115	76	63	25	26	27	28	29	54	59	60	61	62
185	155	114	75	30	21	9	10	11	22	40	77	117	159	181
184	154	113	74	31	12	5	2	6	18	41	78	118	160	182
183	153	112	73	32	13	4	1	1	19	42	79	119	161	183
179	152	111	72	33	14	7	3	8	20	43	80	120	162	190
178	151	110	71	34	23	15	16	17	24	44	81	121	163	191
53	52	51	50	45	35	36	37	38	39	64	82	122	164	192
94	93	92	89	46	83	84	85	86	87	88	102	123	165	193
135	134	131	90	47	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	142	166	194
176	175	132	91	48	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	177	195
209	202	133	209	49	203	204	209	205	206	207	209	209	209	209