

# ALPHABET SOUP

MARY J. YOUNGQUIST  
Rochester, New York

A few weeks ago I accidentally ran into an old friend, a logophilic gourmet by the name of Ambrose Ziegfield. Hadn't seen Old Ziggy in ages, and I wondered what he was up to. He excitedly told me of his new venture -- he was about to open a restaurant exclusively for word-loving gluttons. His excitement was contagious: I drooled at the thought of combining two favorite pastimes, words and eating. The A-Z Diner (he rejected my suggested name of Ziegfield's Folly) would open soon, he said, and he gave me a quick run-down of the plans. Diners in the main room, while being entertained by the Lettermen, would select items from a specially chosen menu, each food being a two-word item beginning with adjacent letters of the alphabet: A--- B---, B--- C---, etc. (He wasn't sure whether to call this a restaurant chain or a word chain.) In the back room, a secluded nook for special customers, the menu would be reversed, and items would be B--- A---, C--- B---, etc. Ziggy also planned a room just for Super Gluttons, where all portions would be double-size; naturally the items here would be A--- A---, B--- B---, etc. This room would be staffed by identical-twin waiters, clad in doublets, and who would accept only doubloons as a proper tip.

Ziggy had one problem -- he loved to eat, but he was a lousy cook and menu planner. He pleaded with me for assistance, and before I left I had rashly promised to find authentic recipes to fill his menu requirements. This task met with fair success -- the few items not found in cookbooks Old Ziggy could invent as "Specialties of the House". In case you are ever near one of his diners (they are certain to become as nationwide as Colonel Sanders), here is an advance look at the delicacies to be enjoyed. You may note the international flavor of the menu -- necessary to meet Ziggy's stringent linguistic requirements for his list. You may even succeed in picking a fairly balanced meal.

## ZIGGY'S MAIN ROOM MENU

Apple Butter  
Banana Cake or Broiled Chicken

Chocolate Drops or Cold Duck  
 Deviled Eggs  
 Eel Fillets or Eggs Frou-Frou  
 Foie Gras  
 Grilled Hamburgers  
 Huckleberry Ice or Honey Icing  
 Indian Jerky  
 Jellied Kumquats or Jule Kake (a Swedish Christmas cake)  
 Kompot Letni (a Polish summer compote) or Key Lime pie  
 Lemon (or Lobster) Mousse  
 Macadamia Nuts or Moose Nose (a delicacy from Alaska)  
 Norwegian Omelet  
 Orange Pie or Oyster Plant  
 Potato Quenelles  
 Quails Richelieu  
 Round (or Rib) Steak  
 Stewed Tomatoes, Steak Tartare, or Strawberry Tarts  
 Torte Upside-Down (Ziggy's fancy upside-down cake)  
 Uncooked Vegetables  
 Vanilla Wafers  
 ... Wilted Xerophytes and Xyloid Yams are two of Ziggy's  
     invented specials -- sure to be a success  
 Young Zinfandel  
 Zucchini Amandine -- and above all, a Zesty Appetite!

#### SEE WHAT THE BOYS IN THE BACK ROOM WILL HAVE

Armenian Zucchini  
 Baked Apples or Baked Alaska  
 Corned Beef or Creme Brulee  
 Deviled Crab or Drop Cookies  
 Egg Drops  
 Fried Eggs  
 Gefilte Fish  
 Hungarian Goulash  
 Italian Ham  
 Jambon Italien (the same thing in French)  
 Kumquat Jam  
 Lamb Kidneys  
 Meat Loaf  
 Neopolitan Macaroni  
 Orange Nog  
 Poached Oysters  
 Quahog Pie  
 Roast Quail  
 Stewed Rhubarb

Tomato Sauce  
 Uncooked Tomatoes  
 ...A Ziggy Special: Veal Ultra-Special  
 Watercress Veloute  
 ...And three more Specials: Xmas Wafers (Ziggy's  
 Christmas cookies), Yogurt X-tra-sharp, and Zieg-  
 field's Youngberries

#### SUPER GLUTTON DOUBLE ORDERS

Avocado Aspic or Anchovy Appetizers  
 Baked Beans  
 Cottage Cheese, Creamed Corn, or Chocolate Cake  
 Danish Dumplings or Double-Deckers (Ziggy's super glutton  
 sandwiches)  
 Easter Eggs  
 Fried Fish or French Fries  
 Giblet Gravy or Goose Gizzards  
 Ham Hash  
 Italian Ice  
 Juneberry Jelly  
 Kidney Kabobs  
 Lamb's Liver or Live Lobster  
 Marinated Mushrooms or Malted Milk  
 Noodle Nests or Norwegian Nokkelost (cheese)  
 Onion Omelet  
 Pumpkin Pie or Plum Pudding  
 Quail Quenelles  
 Rib Roast  
 Swiss Steak or Strawberry Shortcake  
 Tenderloin Tips  
 ...A Ziggy Special: Unsalted Unicorns (available only in  
 unicorn season)  
 Veal Veloute, Vegetables Vinaigrette, or Viennese Veal  
 Wintergreen Wafers, Watermelon Wedges, Whole-Wheat  
 Waffles or White Wine  
 ...A Special: Xanthophyllic Xylose (a rare yellow sugar)  
 Yellow Yams  
 Zupa Ziemniaczana (Polish potato soup)