

## COLLOQUY

Rollin Stearns' fine article on clerihews in this issue reintroduces the term to new readers. Rollin tried his hand at limericks too, submitting this effort:

A puzzler ferociously feral,  
Whose muzzle puts wizards in peril,  
Roared jeremiads  
At druids and dryads  
While guzzling his beer by the barrel.

He did not know that "feral" happens to be the editor's nom in the National Puzzler's League.

The reclusive Oscar Thumpbindle has let us know (indirectly) that his unincorporated village of Timberland Cusp, OH is "just a short buggy ride from Columbus." We learn from his article "Tourmaline Magic", delivered by messenger, that he apparently was born in October, but not much more about him is known. David Dillon spotted Oscar's name in the men's magazine GQ (Dec. 2007) where he is listed as a "Friend" of the Gentlemen's Fund, an initiative to raise support for the five cornerstones essential to men: opportunity, health, education, environment and justice.

Anil recalls the late Bill Webster's anagram novel *A Wordy Guy* and recommends it. Anil also was one of several people to note that Michael Kline's third Puncture drawing could be interpreted as parable rather than gored by a bull. He also noted that in Ross Eckler's "Number Names", seven sums to 17 not 7.

Anil sent a clipping by M. Knott from *The Weekend Australian*, Dec. 22-23, 2007 headed "Scrabulous champ living in a perfect word." It seems Melbourne University student Sam Chenoweth used the word OXYPHENBUTAZONE in a Scrabble like game scoring 1788 points when played in the right spot. Scrabulous is a game invented by two brothers from India played on Facebook and is a knock off of the Hasbro game Scrabble. *The Chicago Tribune* reported on Monday, Jan. 21, 2008 that Hasbro is trying to shut down Scrabulous, saying it infringes on its copyrights and trademarks. The Tribune suggests googling "scrabble cheat" to find a program that can be used to figure out every possible word your tiles could spell. Put in the eight letters LAOEPGRS, say – and out pops all 355 possible word combinations, including the only possible eight letter word PERGOLAS.

These sources are not available in Scrabble tournaments of course. Jeff Grant reminds us of the *Word Ways*, Feb. 1993 article "1970-point one-move Scrabble" which as the current theoretical single-turn record uses the word BENZOXYCAMPHORS (N12). Using standard Scrabble dictionaries, Mr. Chenoweth's word tops.

Susan Thorpe says "With all due respect to Jeff (Nov. 2007 Colloquy), he was not privy to the conversations Rex Gooch and I had about Rex's article Near-Heterogammatic Double 5-squares. Rex positively wanted some squares with 24 different letters to be

included. Doing this demonstrates that good squares with more than 23 different letters simply do not exist, so emphasising how rare good squares are.”

Jeff comments on Susan’s good work on transposable 4-letter sets but thinks AEST works best. “A few of the new combinations could be represented with more common words, e.g. TOSA, a Japanese mastiff, TAUS, Greek letters, TUIS, New Zealand birds (all OED). Also STEU is a nickname for Justin Steuer (not Stener), and OITS is an error for the name OTIS. Better is OITS dial. For ORTS. (Eng. Dial. Dict.)”

## A PUZZLER

HAROLD JACOBS

North Hollywood, California

*Harold submits this fine poser. Can you fill in the blanks with no hints? The answer will run on our website in a few weeks.*

