For an entire week, Monday May 7th through Saturday May 12th, one of our most admired editorial journalists subjected us, the readers of Word Ways, to a relentless barrage of castigation and ridicule. His point was that playing with the language is not an intelligent, adult pursuit, and being the writer that he is, his rapier as smooth and sharp as that of any other man who scribbled for a living, he made a very convincing case. By some strange quirk of psychology, I've found that the more fanatic the logophile, the more inclined he is to acknowledge the justness of the denunciation. It must be the quality of the writing. Had he attacked the custom of eating as skillfully as he attacked wordplay in his six-day tirade, I probably would have nodded in perfect agreement without, however, changing my eating habits in the slightest.

On Monday he began innocuously with a blast at the "picture-poem". Valentine poems shaped like hearts, the Epistles of Paul printed minutely in their entirety on the (presumed) likenesses of the Apostle, that sort of thing. Tuesday he castigated lipogrammatists and rebus-makers. Still nothing to make a JRL reader blush, but the signs were ominous. Sure enough, on Wednesday he struck with vigor at us anagrammatians, pausing only to direct some scorn at the acrostic and the bouts rimes. On Thursday, warming to his sermon, he deftly exposed puns and punsters to his merciless sarcasm. Friday he began his summation against linguistic horseplay, including doggerel rhymes, and Saturday concluded it with a Perelmanesque fantasy in which all of these objectionable examples of "false wit" assume corporeal form and cavort about fatuously until they are dispelled by the embodiment of "true wit".

I don't mind telling you I was shaken after reading these six editorials. The writer define it would have been difficult to find a more subtle, appreciative grace in my slightest string of logomaniacal breeding or a more personal friend. His was a better way of putting it.

Suddenly I recalled my realized that I could not own a license to publish this fine journal as one could a newspaper.

Monday: I read that the July 1711 by Josep made the point that you don't own a license to read a newspaper.

Tuesday (or Thursday): I read that the letter of Dominick Fini and that the Fund would not be converted to Barbarian Dialects as one could a newspaper.

Wednesday (or Friday): I read that the presents of the Master and the Mistresses of the Age, and that not being converted to Barbarian Dialects as one could a newspaper.

Year, when the Pud was the presiding Heart to his infirm, and as one could a newspaper.

Thursday (or Saturday): I read that the Country of the Boons had been converted to Barbarian Dialects as one could a newspaper.

I found it strange.
gistic kick-

Answers

May 12th, the readers ridicule.

Aelligent, adult both and he made a gy, I've said he is to the quality skillfully as would have nod-
atting habits

picture-poem", printed min-
apostle, that rebus-
the signs were at us ana-
brocatric and the deftly ex-
ay he began gserl rhymes, in which all of
real form

use six editor-

ials. The writer has always been a particular favorite of mine. How fine it would be to make one's points so compactly and cogently. And what a subtle, underplayed humor! Many writers can evoke the appreciative grin in their readers, but he gets bellylaughs without the slightest strain. Methought perhaps I was demeaning myself with my logomaniacal pursuits and should take up a new hobby such as clam-breeding or linoleum-laying. I mentioned the articles to a logophiliac friend. His reply reassured me: "What did the guy recommend as a better way of getting your kicks? Writing dirty knock-knock jokes?" Suddenly I recalled the occasional sanctimonious streak that marred this fine journalist's writings. If it pleases you to read the Philadelphia telephone directory three hours every evening, does that give me license to publicly denounce you?

I read these tirades some ten years ago. They were written in 1711 by Joseph Addison (The Spectator, numbers 58 through 63). If you don't own The Spectator, I urge you to buy or borrow a copy if only to read the anti-logophiliac articles. They are very funny:

Monday: I have heard that there is now an eminent Writing-Master... who has transcribed all the Old Testament in a full-bottomed periwig; and if the Fashion should introduce the thick Kind of Wigs which were in Vogue some few years ago, he promises to add two or three supernumerary Locks that shall contain all the Apocrypha.

Tuesday (of the Odyssey of Tryphiodorus, who shunned a different letter of the Greek alphabet in each of the 24 books in his translation): .. if the work ... had been now extant ... what a perpetual Fund would it have been of obsolete Words and Phrases, unusual Barbarisms and Rusticities, absurd Spellings and complicated Dialects? I make no Question but it would have been looked upon as one of the most valuable Treasuries of the Greek Tongue.

Wednesday (on anagramming): I have heard of a Gentleman who, when this Kind of Wit was in Fashion, endeavored to gain his Mistress's Heart by it. She was one of the finest Women of her Age, and known by the name of the Lady Mary Boon. The Lover not being able to make anything of Mclry, by certain Liberties... converted it into Moll and after having shut himself up for half a Year, with indefatigable Industry produced an Anagram. Upon the presenting it to his Mistress, who was a little vexed in her Heart to see herself degraded into Moll Boon, she told him, to his infinite Surprise, that he had mistaken her Surname, for that it was not Boon but Bohun.

Thursday (on the painstaking classification of puns): I remember a Country School-Master of my Acquaintance told me once, that he had been in Company with a Gentleman whom he looked upon to be the greatest Paragrammatist among the Moderns. Upon Enquiry, I found my learned Friend had dined that day with Mr. Swan, the
famous punster; and desiring him to give me some Account of Mr. Swan's Conversation, he told me that he generally talked in the Paronomasia, that he sometimes gave into the Floce, but that in his humble Opinion he shined most in the Antaclasis.

Clifton Fadiman wrote a fine essay, "Small Excellencies: A Dissertatiom on Puns" (Any Number Can Play, Avon, 1957) that Addison might not have regarded highly, but you will.

Double-Duty Words: Where Do You Come From, What Do You Do?

For some four centuries the English have been helping themselves freely to foreign words (among other valuables) and in so doing have enriched themselves and their language. America has followed the lead of the mother country, and as a result of the interaction among English-speaking peoples, it is not chauvinistic to speculate that from the viewpoint of expressive capability English is the richest (terrestrial) language.

As a by-product of our tendency to appropriate words from other languages, we have a large store of words that denote both occupation and nationality. Chanteuse is not an example of what I have in mind. Though lifted bodily from French, it would apply no less aptly to Lena Horne than to Edith Piaf. Likewise with gendarme or cicerone (a not-necessarily-Italian guide). But a dragoman is an interpreter from one of the Arabic-speaking countries. And if one woman writes amah on an employment application in London or New York and another writes ayah, then both are nursemals, the first Chinese, the second East Indian. We might correctly call an amah a nanny, but it wouldn't do to call an English nursemaid an amah. A few other examples of double-duty words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Word</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lascar</td>
<td>sailor</td>
<td>East Indian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kanaka</td>
<td>sailor</td>
<td>Polynesian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gaucho</td>
<td>cowboy</td>
<td>Argentine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vaquero</td>
<td>cowboy</td>
<td>Mexican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>muzhik</td>
<td>collective farmer</td>
<td>Russian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kibbutznik</td>
<td>collective farmer</td>
<td>Israeli</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kulak (a wealthy Russian peasant) Is a triple-duty word: Where are you from? What do you do? And how's business?

Poker Words

There are 52 distinct five-letter word patterns. POKER, with no repeated letters...
Account of no repeated letters, has the pattern 12345. It would constitute a nothing hand at word poker (about which more presently). With the help of Ralph Beaman, Les Card, Ross Eckler, John Ferguson, Dar­ryl Francis, Murray Pearce and Walt Penney, 48 of the possible pat­terns have been fleshed out with examples. When I sent out my SOS, there were many gaps. Since I stipulated no dictionary as authority, the contributors pulled out all the stops; however, the great majority of the examples (those without asterisks) can be found in Web II or easily inferred (plurals, comparatives, possessives and the like). Nevertheless, there are still four patterns without examples. Readers are invited to find them, or coin them if nece­s录制。  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One Pair</th>
<th>Full House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12233: COOE &amp;</td>
<td>12312: VER &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12313: ENDED</td>
<td>1122:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12321: MADAM</td>
<td>11212: EESES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12323: CEDED</td>
<td>11221:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12331: TWEET</td>
<td>11222:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12332: MANNA</td>
<td>11212: MAMMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12341: CYNIC</td>
<td>11212: A1AJA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12342: UNION</td>
<td>11222: RERE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12343: CANON</td>
<td>11221: ESSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12344: GLASS</td>
<td>11222: ESSES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12345: LLANO</td>
<td>1223:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12346: MAMBA</td>
<td>1221:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12347: UNIA</td>
<td>1222:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12348: OOLY</td>
<td>1222:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12349: LLAMA</td>
<td>1223:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12350: AALII</td>
<td>1224:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12351: CANON</td>
<td>1225:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12352: LALMA</td>
<td>1226:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12353: MAMBA</td>
<td>1227:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12354: LEVEE</td>
<td>1228:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12355: MAMBA</td>
<td>1229:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12356: LLAMA</td>
<td>1230:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12357: MAMBA</td>
<td>1231:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12358: LLAMA</td>
<td>1232:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12359: MAMBA</td>
<td>1233:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12360: LLAMA</td>
<td>1234:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Word Poker

Though the poker word project arose (I admit without shame) out of the morbid mania for list-making that afflicts me (as well as every other logophile I've met), there was a secondary objective: to create a game. To extend the poker analogy we must first define "straight" and "flush" words. The consensus was that only "no-pair" words should qualify in either category and that straight words have their letters in alphabetical order, e.g. ABHOR, BEGIN, DIRTY, FORTY, GHOST. One contributor suggested that reverse alphabetical order
be permitted also, e.g. POKED, SPOKE, TONIC, WRONG. Since it increases the stock of straight words modestly without bending the concept, I agree. No two contributors agreed on how to define flush words. One suggested five suits (A to E, F to K, etc. either with J coupled to I or made a wild letter as the Joker). Another suggested two suits: curves (B, C, D, etc.) and non-curves (A, E, etc.). Someone proposed numerical values, assigning 1 to A, 2 to B, etc., and dividing the letters into four suits based on their remainder (0, 1, 2 or 3) after division by four. I think the most practical idea was simply to have two suits: A through M, and N through Z. Thus AGILE, BADGE, SPORT and SORTY are flush words. Straight flush words have all five letters ascending or descending in the left or right half of the alphabet. BEGIN is a near miss, as is SPOON (only no-pair words qualify). Can anyone find a straight flush word? The smaller the dictionary, the greater the kudos.

The implementation of the game, based on the suggestions of the contributors, is simple enough. Hands rank upwards as follows: nothing word (e.g. ZILCH), one pair, two pairs, trips, straight, flush, full house, four of a kind, straight flush, five of a kind. Within each rank hands are valued according to the proximity of their letters to Z. Among nothing words, TORCH beats PORCH and GRATE beats CRATE. GRATE also beats TRACE. Among other hands, BEVEL beats CYNIC (E being higher than C) and TRUTH beats STATE (U being higher than S). CHOPS is a higher straight than FILMS and FLICK a higher flush than BILGE. Challenge: Using Webster's Collegiate, determine the highest and lowest ranking words in each category.

From a double set of Scrabble tiles each player is dealt seven. Each player antes one poker chip and the first player clockwise of the dealer who is able to form a word opens. All bets and raises are limited only by the size of the pot at the time the bet is made. All players who call the opening and raises, if any, may discard any number of tiles up to and including seven and replace them from the unused stock. After a minute of silence, each player takes his hand down to five tiles and the second (final) round of betting ensues. After resolution, opener must show his opening word (any dictionary may be used by agreement of the players as authority). If it is not a legal word, he must match the pot, i.e. double it by way of penalty. If opener drops out before the resolution, any word beats a non-word. If no words are held the pot is split even. Word-claims are made in clockwise rotation starting with the opener, and illegal claims are penalized in the same way as is the wordless opening. If no player opens on a given deal, the players reante and deal passes to the left. The four blank tiles are wild. Try this game -- it's faster paced than Scrabble.
Counting the Natural Numbers

A librarian was asked to rattle off the first few positive integers. Taking a deep breath, she went: "8; 8,000,000,000; 8,000,000,008; 8,000,000,018; .. " What was the next number likely to be? Think about it before reading on, but if you feel in danger of straining a synapse go right on to the next paragraph.

The next number was 8,018,000,000 (eight billion, eighteen million). The sequence is that of the natural numbers arranged according to their standard (American) nomenclature, in alphabetical order. An interesting counting procedure. If we take an immortal, infinitely patient librarian who uses instead the simpler method of counting in numerical order, then no matter how large an integer you can think of, she'll get to it eventually. But using alphabetic order, our librarian will never get to one!

Five Challenges

On these use any dictionary you wish:

1. Addison was joshing, of course, when he wrote about the swain who spent six months producing an anagram of MOLL BOON. Nothing could come of those letters (could it?), so assume that he was working with LADY MOLL BOON. Ross Eckler has come up with a couple of possibilities which Lady Bohun would surely have rejected, even had her lover spelled her name correctly. Can you find one?

2. In Word Poker, I invited readers to find in Webster’s Collegiate the highest and lowest ranking poker hands in various categories. Readers are challenged to find a lower ranking flush than BADGE.

3. In a hand of Word Poker, opener threw away three tiles after the first round of betting. "You realize the penalty if you fail to produce a word?" asked an opponent. "No problem!" said opener. "You must have one or more blank tiles!" said another player. "Nope" replied opener confidently. Was he being overconfident? In other words (considering that opener might draw three of the same letters) is there a group of four letters which, together with each of the 26 letters, can be permuted to form a 5-letter word?

4. In Crash, what is the minimum number of shot words, each scoring a zero, that will determine the target word uniquely? Fewer than a dozen, I reckon.

5. Ross Eckler has produced the group STAIR HERON GREED CLOSE DITTY QUIRT POUCH BANAL which crashes, he believes, in at least one of the eight words with every 5-letter word in the Pocket Dictionary. I have been unable to find a 5-letter word in any dictionary that does not crash with the Eckler list. Kickshaws offers kudos to any reader who discovers an exception, and an en-
comium to anyone who comes up with a shorter pan-crashing list of 5-letter words.

Corrections

As the British general cleverly wired Imperial Headquarters after capturing the rebel stronghold in the Indian Mutiny: PECCAVI (I have Sind). In the February 1971 issue I inserted at least three errors. I slipped a gratuitous apostrophe into the title Finnegans Wake, I called NAZI an elemental word (N is for nitrogen, not neon, dumbkopf!), and least, but probably not last, a micrometer should be one thousandth of a millimeter, not a thousand kilometers. I was off only by a factor of a trillion.

Assorted Contributions

Philip Cohen, Fort Myer, Virginia offers the definitive hinky-pinky (rhyming epithet). The clue is "a New Yorker's winecellar". Since nobody could hope to solve it, I'll give you the solution instantan: Knickerbocker liquor locker. Kickshaws believes this to be untoppable. Phil also relayed some of the memorable answers from Steve Allen's old feature, "The Question Man" (the forerunner of Kickshaw's What's The Question? department). Here are the answers; for the correct questions see Answers and Solutions in this issue:

2. Around the world in eighty days.
4. From the rock-bound coast of Maine.
5. Stork Club.

Last time around, we ran the answer "a Greek letter" corresponding to the question "What's nu?" Albert Wilansky's wife Rosie may have found a better question, however. She felt it should be: "How did Helen of Troy get on Menelaus' boat?"

Way back when, Leigh Mercer introduced the many-word-word, e.g., PERT-IN-A-CITY. Phil Cohen offers IN-DISC-RIM-IN-A-TION, a seven-word beauty. But then as Ralph Beaman pointed out, every letter is a word, so that PNEUMONOULTRAMICROSCOPIC-SILICOVOLCANOCONIOSIS with 45 letters is the longest many-word-word in Webster's Unabridged. (It is a miner's lung disease.) Alden Myles of Burial Hill, Plymouth, Mass., offers this bombshell: What is the longest entry in the Big Web? Answer: CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY. With its gaps this unusual entry beats the lung disease by two printers' spaces. Myles also asks: 1. What two words in the Big Web have the letter combo SZCZ?

2. What words designate a word (goofed). For example, "A".

Richard L. Frey, Santa Cruz, California offers something that is a contraption.

Speaking of fowl moods, Field's challenge produced a Cuius natured query up with another little theme. "By any chance, what is a bird at the right, for all the world like any other at the left?"

1. European
tin
2. East India
tin
3. European
tin
4. Smelt (Aye)
tin
5. Codfish
tin
6. Shark (Can)
tin

Ralph Benjamin, Chicago, has a set number (i.e., A LA TIN, A LA KING) and asks: "What wore a cat's eye?"

Darryl Flinn, Los Angeles, offers a new set of words: STOUNNESS, AUGHNELIC. In retaliation for the right dash produced by Niagara, a dash to the left.

1. European
tin
2. East India
tin
3. European
tin
4. Smelt (Aye)
tin
5. Codfish
tin
6. Shark (Can)
tin

Richard L. Frey, Santa Cruz, California offers something that is a contraption.
1. European whitefish
2. East Indian marine fish
3. European marine fish
4. Smelt (Argentinidae)
5. Codfish
6. Shark (Carcharidae)

Ralph Beaman notes that GALORE is not the only postpositive adjective (i.e., one that always follows the noun it modifies), suggesting A LA KING as another example. Also add AU CHASSEUR, AU GRA-TIN, A LA BOURGUIGNONNE, A LA MODE, A LA RUSSE, etc. which have slipped into English, partly because there is usually no equally concise native equivalent and partly through culinary snobbishness. A-PLENTY, a colloquial synonym of GALORE, is also postpositive.

Darryl Francis of Middlesex, England furnishes a good example from Big Web III of a 3-letter word with four syllables, viz., VIZ (vi-day-il-cet). Looking in the other direction, Darryl exhibits BORROW-STOUNNESS, a two-syllable word (bo-ness). Tightly perverse, these English, with their short-shriven place names. Worcester and Cholmondelay are well-known examples. How would you pronounce AUCHINLECK and COLQUAHOUN? That's right -- Affleck and Cahoon. In retaliation, refuse to understand English tourists when they talk about Niagara Falls or Yellowstone National Park. Finally, with just the right dash of condescension, say "Oh, you must mean Niffles" or "By any chance are you referring to Yempick?"
I privately challenged Darryl to find a word longer than SUTTEE with its letters in reverse typewriter order. He matched me with CAPPIE, CHAPPY, GOITRE, PUTTEE, SITTEE and BOOTEE, topped me with CHAPOTE, CHAPPLE and CHAPPOW, and buried me with CHAPITRE. Now he challenges you to top that!

Darryl offers the following list: OFF, BLOW, BLEW, HOW, MUFF, SUP, RACK, BOOK, POKE, HOOF and JOG. What have these words in common? Answer: they all rhyme with words ending in OUGH (e.g., COUGH, THROUGH, BOUGH, TOUGH, HICCOUGH, TURLough, OUGH, WOUGH, WOUGH and SKEOUGH). He adds BOROUGH with alternate pronunciation burrr and wonders if the reader knows of any other OUGH pronunciations.

Ah Sordid Contributions!

Dick Field offers Word Ways readers the foundation of a do-it-yourself dirty limerick and leaves it to you to provide the superstructure, completing the five lines with 6, 5, 3, 4 and 7 syllables respectively, properly accented, of course. Sort of makes you blush, doesn't it? On the same day I received the Field offering, Kevin Kearns of Chicago told me to "make a mental note: there are exactly seven dirty, four-letter, Anglo-Saxon words. Those other four-letter words are either clean or they're not Anglo-Saxon." That was the end of Kevin's message, and since I disagree with his total, I'll have to reserve confirmation or denial until I see Gary Jennings' Apollo paperback Personalities of Language, which my correspondents advise me covers the subject (and many other interesting ones) in scholarly detail.

Richard Epstein, author of Theory of Gambling and Statistical Logic (Academic Press, 1967), likes a sure thing when he can get it. To forestall the risk of forgetting the names of the three Brontë sisters, he offers this mnemonic limerick:

Charlotte Brontë said "Wow, sister! What a man! He laid me face down on the ottoman. Now don't you and Emily Go telling the family -- But he smacked me upon my bare bottom, Ann!"

From the October 1970 issue of The Journal of Recreational Mathematics comes an entry for the "Mathematics Is a Drag" department. From "The Princess and the Roses" by F. de Carteblanche, Univ. of Paris: "Princesses have been the source of..." "Handsome, clever, and don't know which..."

And the October issue of seafood world of Maine: "Do you..." "Eh yeah," I heard it use...)

Challenge Up!

Many readers have suggested oth...
Paris: "Princess Romantica, of the Kingdom of Cartographia, should have been the happiest maiden in the world. Her two lovers, Princess "Handsome" Hans and "Charming" Charles, were rich, delightful, clever, and devoted to her. But she was sad because she just didn't know which of the two to choose..." (After all, it is a fairy tale.)

And then there's the one about the Midwestern tourist and lover of seafood who asked a motel manager on the rock-bound coast of Maine: "Do you know of any place around here where I can get scrod?"
"Eh yeah," was the stolid reply, "but that's the first time I've heard it used in the pluperfect." 

Challenge Unmet

Many readers responded to the challenge of The Word Buff's pan-grammatic cryptogram but none succeeded in meeting it. The clue given in the last issue was the phrase "the full answer". In fact, the crypt has two solutions, and although each of the two was obtained, nobody obtained both. The plaintext reads:

WE NEED NOT EXHUME DDT FROM POLLUTED GROUNDS, OR PURGE CLOUDS OF -LL PLUMBEOUS FUMES; OUR L*SES EVERYWHERE NEED NO QUI-CKS-LVER TO SHOW ONE H*S JUST CONCERN OVER MODERN SELF DESTRUCT METHODS: UNCONTROLLED BOOZE, DRUGS (POT, SPEED), ETC.

The symbols - and * can be deciphered A and I, in either order. Anyone who thinks the Buff had an easy task in constructing a "cooked cryptogram" should try making one himself.

A Game of Card's

Remember Mary Youngquist's laudatory acrostic in the February Kickshaws? Leslie Card has constructed a two-stage transposition with a similar aim. The reader first must unscramble the anagrammed names of cities and states; then he must rearrange their initial letters to obtain a 22-letter message of four words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dear Eben</th>
<th>Oregon cave</th>
<th>Slip Fred gin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blame riot</td>
<td>Gropo hotel</td>
<td>Coed rain tog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calf liver words</td>
<td>Look! A ham</td>
<td>Torn net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devil lodge</td>
<td>Row to Penn, Vic</td>
<td>Perk us up, Sandy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I spin no dial</td>
<td>Red hand soil</td>
<td>Wins a thong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quit in rodeo</td>
<td>A red liver</td>
<td>Twin cheers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank eras</td>
<td>Can snort</td>
<td>Know Troy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rich sauna tool</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>