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

Dmitri Borgmann’s list of spelling demons in “The Demon Championship” in the November 1974 issue elicited the following substitutions from Fredrick L. Mann of Trenton, N.J. — desiccate for antiszygy, vilify for bo’sun, picnicking for cholecystectomy, paraphernalia for eighth, harass for fo’c’sle, guaiac for miaoued, inoculate for Leicester, rarely for occasionally, sherbet for psychologically, and gauge for synonymy. Darryl Francis ventured sphygmic and borshtch (a variant of borsch on a London sign). It seems likely that lists from different people will vary widely; each one has his own personal demons. Darryl commented that he can never remember how to spell gazetteer, while the editor has to stop and think about reveille, maintenance, meritorious, terrestrial and diarrhea.

Jill’ll love me, as pointed out in the May 1973 Colloquy, contains five consecutive identical letters, ignoring spaces, apostrophes and other non-literal symbols. Maxey Brooke recently came up with another phrase to match this: burgoo ’o ooze.

Errors, errors, errors! George H. Lopes, the word-square constructor, is in reality George H. Ropes. In “Very Long Rebi!”, the second S in 2 should have been A, and the second H in 27 should have been left out: 29 and 30 should have been labeled 25 and 26. In “The Demon Championship”, kjehldahlize and propadeutic were both misspelled in the discussion. In “A New High-Scoring Scrabble Game”, there are 70 internal tiles, not 60. Finally, SQUEEZE is another 25-point word from Webster’s Pocket Dictionary overlooked by The Best.

Philip Cohen adds to Darryl Francis’s “Two-Letter Words” in the November Word Ways with Iy (a populated place in the USSR), Uf (a lake in the USSR), Xe (in Nam Xe, a stream in North Vietnam) and Xo (Nam Xo, another stream in North Vietnam). All can be found in the Official Standard Names Gazetteers. Ron Jerome dug deeply into the Oxford English Dictionary to locate 13 no-vowel two-letter words: ch, hm, hv (how), hw, mr, st, vg (ug), vp (up), vs (us), wg (ug), wp (up), wr
Maxey Brooke sent in a plausible explanation of Webster’s confusion of acrostics with word squares, discussed in the August 1974 Word Ways. For many hundreds of years, the concepts of the acrostic and word square were completely distinct, following separate lines of development; then a partial convergence occurred. In the eighteenth century, the single acrostic (somewhat confusingly called the acrostic rebus) consisted of a series of versified clues, resulting in a set of words (called the cross-lights, or more simply the lights) whose first letters spelled out a vertical word. In the middle of the nineteenth century, the double acrostic, in which both the first and last letters of the lights spelled out vertical words, was invented and enjoyed great popularity. If the middle letters of each light formed a third vertical word, the puzzle was called a triple acrostic. A rather full discussion of the history is given in the Mathematical Games column of the September 1967 Scientific American magazine. If the words in the lights are restricted to have the same number of letters, one has taken a considerable step from the acrostic to the double word rectangle. Says Martin Gardner: "It is easy to see how the double and triple acrostic, with its two or three vertical words, evolved into more complicated forms, including the crossword puzzle ... and the Double-Crostic." Later, he is even more specific: "One of the earliest and hardest-to-compose variants on the double acrostic is the word square, which can be thought of as a kind of ultimate acrostic because every letter in it marks an intersection of two words."

In his Word Row column in the 1974 issue of Games & Puzzles, Darryl Francis invited readers to search for words containing all possible orders to the vowels AEIOU, each vowel occurring but once. The November 1969 and February 1970 issues of Word Ways list 109 of the 120 possibilities, including, apparently, all that can be found in Webster’s Second. G&P readers have come up with two more possibilities: OAUET opaqueing and EAIUO sea-liquor. Webster’s shows opaque as a verb; this spelling occurs in an Oxford English Dictionary citation. Sea-liquor may be in an old edition of Chambers, and can certainly be found in the Century Dictionary.

The August 1974 Word Ways mentioned that there were some 20 different pronunciations for BERSERK in Webster’s Unabridged. According to Ralph Beaman, there may be as many as 60 authorized pronunciations for TEMPERATURE in Webster’s Third. Letting * denote an uh-type vowel ordinarily denoted by an inverted e, pick one item from each parenthesized group: (TEM) (P*, P*R, P*R*, P*, P) (CHUR, CH*R, CHU*, CH*, TYUR, TY*R, TYU*, TUR, TU*, T*R). The word may have anywhere from two (TEMCH*) to five (TEMP*R TYU*) syllables. Is this the champion? After giving four pronunciations for YES, Webster’s Third says "& a multiplicity of other variants among them", proceeding to show 26. Not content with this, they then add "stop may be grand total".
then add "to the variants transcribed as vowel-final, p or a glottal stop may be added". By Ralph's count, this gives 40 more for a grand total of 70 different ways to say YES!

Readers continue to send in additions and corrections to the all-vowel tetragram article in the August 1974 issue. Bill Rawlings suggests UAAU Macquaus, a variant of Mohawk found in the Indians of Canada (1912), part of Hodges' Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico. Murray Pearce notes that AIUA Saurauia should have been listed AUUA. AIAE Raiau, AAIU Raia and EAIA Reia all appear below the line in Webster's Second, and the Gazetteer section shows AIEA Aiea, AUAIA Kauai and AUAU Auau all as Hawaiian names. The 50th edition of the Rand McNally Road Atlas shows AAUI Paaulo and EEIA Heeia in the index as Hawaiian towns, but the latter is not on the map and may be a misprint. However, an examination of the map yields EOIO Koneioio and IOUO OUOU Kulioou, not in the index. Vowel hexagrams (EUOUAE, AIAIAI) are so rare that it is worth pointing out the word Zouaoua in the etymology of zouave, in Webster's Second.

Mary Youngquist comments that chemists have been playing with the idea of chemical words for a long time. She adds that iron and arsenic can, like carbon, be factored into elements not themselves (in current charts Ar is not arsenic but argon).

Philip Cohen checked the Official Standard Names Gazetteer for Guatemala in search of X-terminated words and found three populated places: Xecanchavox, Xetonox and Xix. How about that?