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.

In the August 1979 Kickshaws, Darryl Francis listed several words that can be considered in two different ways: peri-od (pertaining to the highest acid of iodine and oxygen) or period-ic (characterized by periods). Jeremiah Farrell noticed in his son's PTA magazine sale the snowmobile title SNOTRACK which, it can be seen, also describes some type of a holder for nasal discharges!

Following up on the same Kickshaws, Brian Katz of Willowdale, Ontario, Canada sends in the hair pun to end all hair puns: what do a gorilla, an orphan, His Royal Highness Prince Charles and Yul Brynner have in common? The first has a hairy parent; the second has ne' er a parent; the third is the heir apparent; and the fourth has no hair apparent.

Several readers rose to the challenge of finding word ladders connecting six-letter or seven-letter reversals having no repeated letters. Dmitri Borgmann started with SPACED-spaces-spices-slices-slites-slices-scales-scalps-scamps-stamps-stomps-stoops-steeps-steeels-steams-straws-straws-serails-terais-derails-derays-decays-DECAPS. Tom Pulliam found two shorter ones: DECART-decant-decent-recent-revent-revend-resend-reseed-rested-tested-teated-teared-leared-leaked-beaked-braked-braced-TRACED, and HAIREN-Dairen-daimen-daimon-daiwon-Darkon-darlen-carien-carlen-Marlan-Morian-Moriah-Meriah-NERIAH. The finest example however, is Jeff Grant's minimum-length word ladder REKNIT-rennett-tenner-tinner-TINKER, using words from the OED (alas, reknit-beknit form an isolated group with respect to Webster's Unabridged). For seven-letter words, a Websterian chain may be impossible, but an OED one has been found by Jeff Grant: REKNITS-ritten-renets-renners-tanners-tanners-banners-bankers-bankers-conkers-conkers-cockers-sockers-soakers-soakers-starters-stars-starees-starves-starver-starver-starver-stacker-sticker-STINKER. (Dmitri Borgmann constructed one of the same length connecting the same reversal-pair, but used several inferred comparative adverbs such as moller, more hornless.) Finally, Dmitri observed that the only known eight-letter reversal isogram is SUALOCIN (a star name) / NICOLAUSS (as in Copernicus). He adds, "..(in) the truly remarkable ladder connecting these .. counting from SUALOCIN the 481st word is JASPONYX; while, counting from NICOLAUSS, the 297th word is BREZHNEV". Indeed.

Richard Le the February eponymy of Copernicus.

Charlie Borden pronunciation was Colon, Deer, or Smalling? Jean announced differently.

Dana Richard's rare modification was Howard Berman.

Why, asks Robert from the - in a moment.

Relevant to a Cold War, Cynthia Mark is a suburb, up the other side.

Eric Albert Lederer's 284 words than wisely kept, compared to a (head-shaped) gruntle, treated as a grammar.

Brian Barwise-November 1979.

Dana Richard's language belonged onto there an ease can be...

...p_n upper level

Brian Katz and Barwise-November 1979...
Richard Lederer adds three more noun agency suffixes to his list in the February Kickshaws: gymnast, zealot, simpleton. Cretan is a tenth eponym which began life as the name of a tribe or people.

Charlie Bostick commented that capitonyms (words that change pronunciation when capitalized) are quite common: how about Bonnet, Colon, Degas, Hue, Job, Lie, Main, Milet, Nice, Rainier, and Reading? Jean and Lima are less-perfect, for they only might be pronounced differently.

Dana Richards gently chides Richard Lederer for not noticing that the "rare medium well-done" triple pun attributed to Minow was used by Howard Bergerson in the February 1969 Word Ways (p. 3). Why, asks Boris Randolph, did Richard Lederer leave out VASELINE from the -ine list of commercial products?

Relevant to the meaningless UP (a house burns up when it burns down), Cynthia MacGregor recalls that when she was a child in a New York suburb, up the street was the same as down the street - it didn't matter. On a foray into Manhattan, she got on a bus at the lower end of Fifth Avenue and innocently asked "Does this bus go down Fifth Avenue?" In a voice that could be heard at the back of the bus, the driver roared "Lady, this is as far down as you can get -- this bus goes up Fifth Avenue!"

Eric Albert of Providence, Rhode Island points out that five of Richard Lederer's Unnegatives actually exist, though they are less well-known than their Negatives: maculate (marked with spots), kempt (neatly kept), couth (sophisticated), pecable (liable to sin), and capitate (head-shaped). Other examples are exorable, pervious, clement, licit, grumble, trepid and nocent. Probably the word Unnegative should be reserved for the true non-words such as ept.

Brian Barwell of Bracknell, Berkshire, England follows up on the November 1979 Kickshaws with the discovery that the 45-letter lung disease can be put in octalphabetical order:

Brian Katz adds to Cynthia MacGregor's discussion of Yinglish as a language blend (November 1979 Colloquy): in the Jewish section of Toronto there are signs in Hebrew letters which phonetically spell out "Fresh Putter, Caise, Creem, Aics" on a dairy and "Vashrooms" on a public convenience. While these survive in situ, other signs have been removed to the archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress. By a slightly different reasoning, Yiddish itself deserves inclusion in the list of English-foreign blends.
Two readers have proved that it isn't particularly difficult to find four-by-four double word squares with all letters different and all words in Webster's Third. The first one below is by Jeremy Morse, and the next three by Tom Pulliam:

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PLUG BUGS SLOB CRAP GOWF
RADE ADYT GUMI LOBI UDAL
ICON LIER ACERuke SMIRE
XYST KNOW WYND MYTH PNYX
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The fifth one, again by Jeremy Morse, proves that it can even be done in Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary. The Collegiate, anyone?

Cynthia MacGregor contributes two more punnish business names: Kiss N Make-Up (theatrical and everyday cosmetics) and To Boot (a boot store), both on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. She has two names available for bookstores, Secondhand Pros(e), and Once Upon A Tome. In a recent N.Y. Times, there was a note on The Remarkable Book Store in Westport, Connecticut run by a family named Kramer. (I wonder if by chance the first name of the proprietress is Elba? The name does exist; there is, for example, Elba Boada in the 1979 Los Angeles telephone directory.)

Tom Pulliam has discovered several high-scoring subtransposals (i.e., pairs such as RED 18x5x4 = 360 = 2x9x20 BIT) in which the two words have no letters in common: GLAZY/DEMON (54,600), ZUCHE/ GLOAMD (65,520), and ZONAR/IMBUED (98,280), all in Webster's Second Edition.

Yet more -cide words: Jeff Grant has found ALIICIDE (murder), APRICIDE (slaughter of a boar), HOSTICIDE (one who kills his guest or host) and HOSTICIDE (one that kills his enemy), all in the OED. Rudolf Ondrejka located the coinage REVCIDE (the premature death of a clergyman because of high stress and poor health care) in the Atlantic City Press. In the November 1979 Colloquy, the editor mistakenly identified LIGNICIDE as a weed-cutter instead of a wood-cutter.

Errata: In "Letter-Frequencies in Car Names" the editor inexplicably classified MONTE CARLO as a name not containing the letters CAR. Fortunately, this correction strengthens the conclusion that these letters appear more often in car-names than chance would suggest. Cynthia MacGregor says that the Jefferson Airship musical group was actually the Jefferson Airplane (later, Jefferson Starship), making the Jefferson Hairshop pun a bit less apt. The "Thomas and Charley" (Tamazunchale) example of folk etymology cited by LeRoy Meyers previously appeared in John McClellan's August 1978 article.

Speaking of Folk Etymology, John McClellan reports that Partridge has...
ARM-IN-TEARS for Armentieres, the French area with the famous World War I mademoiselle. Partridge uses the term Rhyming Slang for this, which is a bit ambiguous; Cornelius Roosevelt has suggested Substitute Pronunciation. In reality, the correct term is Hobson-Jobson (see Colloquy, November 1978).

Several readers commented on Maxey Brooke's "Limerick-Gimerick". Philip Cohen observed that the two limergimmicks There was a young lady of Crewe / Whose limericks stopped at line two, and There was a young man of Verdun, both appeared in Martin Gardner's Mathematical Games column in Scientific American (April-May 1977). Tom Wright later wrote "I wondered if you had, in fact, added the no-line limerick (about the man from Nepal), and I looked minutely to see if it wasn't there ... no space was provided, but further cogitation suggested that a no-line poem, requiring no space, might indeed be there..." Richard Lederer passes on a couple of fine specimens from his students:

There once was a lovely Pisagna
Who sat down to a bowl of lasagna.
She ate and she ate
Then tipped over her plate
And found that the stuff's gooey agna.

There was a young lady named Millicent
Who received some strange perfume that Billy sent.
It smelled kind of silly
So she sent back to Billy
The silly scent Billy sent Millicent.

Because of the exceedingly appropriate pun involved, he feels that the limerick below is one of the best ever written:

A decrepit old gas man named Peter,
While hunting around for the meter,
Struck a leak with his light;
He arose out of sight,
And, as anyone can see by reading this, he also destroyed the meter.

Philip Cohen feels that Ed Wolpow is incorrect in claiming that the alphabetically last prime, square and cube (all words beginning "two vigintillion...") are computationally impossible to determine; all three are in fact in easy reach of minicomputers. For example, the last square must begin "two vigintillion, two undecillion." Since there is a range of one undecillion to check, and squares in that range are separated on the average by $2(2$ vigintillion)$^{1/2}$, or about 89 nonillion, only 11,000 or so candidates need be checked. Most of these can be quickly eliminated by further mathematical arguments, leaving one with only two 64-digit square roots and about fifteen 31-digit additions to perform. Similar arguments can be constructed for the prime and the cube.
Sam Edelson follows up "Internal Tautonym" with the observation that the chemistry department of Haverford College recently hired someone named Victor Tortorelli - quite a torrent of Tors, wouldn't you say? I wonder if he is inclined toward bringing in Ginger snaps for snacks between lectures. If one allows OED words, says Jeremy Morse, the remarkable triple internal tautonym Zenzizenzizenzic must be recognized.

Toni Harno of Manistee, Michigan clarifies Catherine Rippin's up-stage Strange Paradox: one does not upstage an actor by moving in front of him to attract attention, but rather by walking behind him (upstage) forcing him to turn his back to the audience to deliver his lines.

Tom Pulliam improves on a few of Jeff Grant's 15-letter positional words in the February Colloquy: alimentotherapy is in Webster's, and one can add the words dehydrogenation, isobathythermal, phosphoridrosis and commensurations. This leaves only refractory KQXZ.

Shiftgrams (word-pairs of the form RAY=CAT, produced by one or more alphabet-shift steps plus a transposal) are extremely hard to find for words of ten letters or more; Tom Pulliam stopped at nine in his February Word Ways article. Dmitri Borgmann suggests several ten-letter pairs, the best of which is the Websterian pair OVERLEANED/VIZIERSHIP. An extremely incomplete survey of twelve-letter words by the editor turned up the near misses ESOGASTRITIS/CYCLAMMONIUM (change a T in the first word to a U) and HYMNOLOGICAL/RUST-REMOVING (change an O in the first to a P). In both cases, a change of a letter to a neighbor would do the job; I conjecture that twelve-letter shiftgrams exist. It is far easier to search for auto-shiftgrams, shiftgram pairs in which both words are the same. All known autoshiftgrams consist of 13 alphabetic-shift steps and are of even length (an autoshiftgram of odd length would exist if one could form a word out of the letters acegikmoqsuwty). Websterian ten-letter examples are REPROBANCE, EMBLAZONY, YARN REELER, INTERGRAVE, VIVERRINAE and OLIVE BERRY; twelve-letter examples are TEA REVIVING and the tautonymic TANGANTANGAN.

Reinhold Aman continues the Colloquy on ambiguous memory-mnenomics with the German pair: Wein auf Bier, Das rat ich dir (wine after beer, that I advise you (to drink in that order)), and Bier auf Wein, Das lasse sein (beer after wine, that let be (don't drink)). But what if one misremembers auf (after) as ehe (before)?

Back in the February 1972 Colloquy, Andrew Griscom of Menlo Park, California reported that AUDIO-MAGNETOTELLURIC contains each vowel exactly twice. In the February 13, 1979 issue of EOS (Transactions, American Geophysical Union) he noted that the hyphen has now been dropped, enhancing the word's acceptability.