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.

Several readers commented on Double Dactyls, and composed a few of their own. Philip Cohen suggests that "watching bacteria" is a more accurate description of Leeuwenhoek's early experiments than "watching the viruses". More substantively, he noted that "Register your word with the Rebents" is incomprehensible without including Rule 7: each double dactyl word can be used in only one Double Dactyl. Helen Gunn supplied a short list of Double Dactyl personages: Alfred Lord Tennyson, Jacqueline Kennedy, Emily Dickinson, William M. Thackeray, Thomas A. Edison, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Lloyd Garrison. Two of her poems:

Flippity-floppity
Thomas A. Edison
Searched in his brain for a
New kind of spark.
Gathered together some
Paraphernalia
Then brought the world in from
Out of the dark.

Dillery-dallery
Sir Edmund Hillary
Wanting a breath of some
Cool mountain air
Brushed up a bit on his
Geomorphology
Scaled Mount Everest be-
Cause it was there.

Richard Lederer contributed two more:

Crippity-cloppity
Emily Dickinson,
Hearing a fly buzz, with
Death took a ride.
Death took one look at her:
Peripatetically
Spat to her garden, and
Locked her inside.

Higgledy-piggledy
Richard H. Lederer,
Asked to create double
Dactyls, demurred:
"Etymologically,
Unrealistically
Sequiapedalian
Words are absurd."

Note that the latter contains three double dactyl words in a row!

Jules Leopold recalls Marcelle Dorval's book, Le Coeur Sur La Main: The Heart On The Sleeve (Brentano's, 1943), a "delightful compilation" of hundreds of literal translations of French phrases wittily illustrated by Jean Carlu. No doubt this is long out of print.

Corrections are squipedalia" acid residues: total of six lettered version (p. 38 in the June) after the under
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Corrections are necessary for the longest word in "Superultramegalosexualipedalia". Rudolf Ondrejka noted a misspelling of one of the amino acid residues: TRYPтопHANYL is in reality TRYP...
Marjorie Friedman adds New Mexico to the "On The Inter(s)ate" list, observing that it contains the reversal of CIX, the longest Roman-numeral sequence for any state. Philip Cohen adds a few more properties:

Massachusetts - longest alphabetical-order internal subsequence (ACHSTT)
Ohio - only Morse palindrome: ----------
Pennsylvania - longest alphabetical-order substring (ENNSY)
South Carolina - longest reverse-alphabetical internal subsequence without repeated letters (UTROLLAZ)

Dennis S. Kluk of Skokie, Illinois footnoted Edward Wolpow's "Alphabetizing The Integers" with a study of the alphabetical order of the 50 factorial numbers less than one thousand vigintillion (a factorial number is the product of all the positive integers less than or equal to the number, as 1! = 1, 2! = 1x2, 3! = 1x2x3, etc.). The first factorial starts "eight decillion" (8,222,838,654,177,922,817,725,562,880,000,000), and the last factorial starts "two septendecillion" (2,658,271,574,788,448,768,043,625,811,014,615,890,319,638,528,000,000,000). With the help of a DEC computer, Alan Frank of Somerville, Massachusetts determined the alphabetically-last square and cube, both starting "two vigintillion":

Square: 2,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,220,221,169,297,079,027,232,663,249,060,167,009 which is the square of 1,259,921,049,895,293,558,891
Cube: 2,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,145,301,581,948,035,141,971 which is the cube of 1,259,921,049,895,293,558,891

I think I'll take the computer's word for it.

Richard Lederer writes: "... I must again express my surprise and perplexity at the inconsistent placement of quotation marks in Word Ways, a journal that is, in all other respects, impeccably put together ... The rule is simple: commas and periods always, without exception, go inside." (The preceding sentence illustrates this point.) I plead guilty to the charge; in fact, I have deliberately broken this rule if the quotation is a than a full sentence. Just as a comma goes outside a phrase in parentheses (such as this), so it should logically go outside a quoted phrase. Furthermore, quotation marks always precede a semicolon, which is located between a period and comma as a separation marker. So much for grammatical consistency!

Alan Frank adds two more consecutive-letter sentences:

I know that the editor's signature was forged because of the spacing on the middle name: Ross's "ss"s stick together, but these are separated.
The chess player made a boo-boo (O.O.O); O-O obviously was better.
Philip Cohen notes that Charlie Bostick's holoalphabetic rebuses in "Kickshaws" can be solved in more than one way: 1. forge (forage), 2. mist (format), 6. relate (thereafter), 7. restart (therefore), 9. seaway, absentee (nose), 10. agone, baro, noa (avoid), 11. barb, begone, about, bout (blacking).

Philip Cohen comments that Charlie Bostick's Ravenisms are a higher-order form of wordplay than Malapropverbs because the mixed proverbs are (in the majority of cases) related in meaning. Boris Randolph explored the same idea in his book The Maxiomatic Confuser (McKay, 1958): it never rains but the sun shines; honesty is stranger than fiction; don't tell tales and forget; love and learn; history may call the tune; God helps the best teacher; all is fair but the flesh is weak.

Boris Randolph also supplied two more 1x1 crosswords that Mr. Calilmahos surely would have appreciated:

1. a voiceless velar 1. a Cartesian coordinate
2. half of intelligence quotient 2. 26th in a class
3. a factor in the Gospels 3. a voiced fricative
4. most important chess piece 4. a buzzing sound
5. a farthing 5. 6th letter of Greek alphabet
6. Hebrew 100 6. 7th letter of Hebrew alphabet
7. Roman 500 7. Roman 2000
8. a quarter of Iraq 8. red or izzard

For those who like their 1x1 crosswords harder, Philip Cohen suggests the December 1979 issue of Crossword, which uses cryptic clues.

Robert Kurosaka adds yet one more example of Folk Etymology: the Japanese expression for "you're welcome", dō itashi-mashite, was transformed by American GIs to "don't touch the mustache".

Rudolf Ondrejka reports yet another -CIDE word: SEWERCIDE, a newspaper coinage for death by sewer fumes.

Alan Frank, perusing old Word Ways while convalescing, noted:

250th anniversary coinages: dekaquicentennial, quimillennial (1976)
Things not to ask: are you winning? (chess problem composer); how's the weather up there? (basketball player) (1976)
Homophone pair with J: ai, jai alai (pronounced by a Cockney)(1977)
Scrabble DEELOT* hand: FEDELOT and TOWELED are also in Webster's Third (1978)
Quakes: CHEESEQUAKE is a New Jersey town and park (1979)
Capitonyms: hare, Hare (Krishna) (1980)
Consecutive-letter sequences: The black leader referred to the "sick KKK kids"; I wish HHH had been elected President; Although on his sixth hajj, J.J. Jinnah was as excited as the first time; The Roman vase was priced XV denarii, IIII librae.