

COLLOQUY

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 it.

In the "Reaganagrams" article in the May Word Ways, an asterisk was inadvertently omitted from AGE, WAR AND SIN ROLL ON - the second anagram not generated by computer.

Several readers were inspired to construct Reaganagrams of their own. John Henrick felt NO, DARLINGS, NO ERA LAW was a "magnificent specimen .. destined to surpass all others ever" and weighed in with the following:

WORLDS: EARN, GAIN, LOAN (an allusion to foreign aid?)
 "SWELL AN IRA, DON!" (GROAN) (financial advice to Treasury)
 NAN, ALL ARE DIOR GOWNS (expensive dresses for his wife)
 SOLON RAN WAR DEALING (El Salvador, Nicaragua?)
 NO WAIL NOR SNARL, EGAD! (be moderate in demeanor)
 ANGER AND WAR. SOLO? NIL! (no one will survive the Bomb)

His favorite, because of the imagery, is ARENA DIN; WAGONS ROLL. Three more incorporate the name of Grenada, recently much in the news: SOON I'LL WARN GRENADA; GRENADA ILL, SO NON-WAR; ILL GRENADA? ARSON NOW!

Dmitri Borgmann takes the authors to task for calling Reaganagrams anagrams, since most of them have very little to do with the President. He feels that INSANE ANGLO WARLORD, one of the two non-computer-generated specimens, is the "outstandingly best" of the lot, proving the superiority of mind over machine ("computer domination of logology is a great evil"). He adds a few of his own:

LO! AN "ANA-" WORD-SLINGER (he uses many words like analog?)
 LOW-IN. LOANS ARRANGED (to combat high interest rates)
 A WILD LOAN 'RANGER, SON! (the aphetic form of **arranger** neatly puns on Reagan's cowboy image)

Finally, David Shulman constructed a very clever free-verse sonnet with fourteen anagrams of his own:

Alas, no warning, older!
 An Erin go - lad ran slow
 As all, adoring renown,
 Rolls a win on Grenada,
 And will soon arrange
 Lads no longer in war,
 Enrolls onward again.

O, I ran and sworn legal!
 No war and girls alone,
 La, ran on genial words!
 Non-aware as lordling?
 Ran near slowing road,
 An all-worsening load.
 Lo, was a ringer on land!

In the May 1983 Colloquy there was mention of an infinite-level acronym, GOD; Philip Cohen adds the computer hackers' MUNG = MUNG Until No Good (*mung* means 'mess up, ruin'). Two other interesting specimens from the world of computers are:

MINCE = MINCE Is Not Complete EMACS
 (MINCE and EMACS are both text editors)
 XINU = XINU Is Not UNIX
 (XINU and UNIX are both operating systems)

However, Philip notes, XINU, sides reversed, is UNIX.

In the November 1983 issue, Leonard Ashley called for examples of words made obsolete by advancing technology. Louis Phillips suggests the following:

UMBRELLA certainly is no longer an accurate term, coming as it does from OMBRELLA, OMBRA - meaning shade. How many persons use the umbrella for shade? It seems the umbrella is more usually used to keep off water. Perhaps there should be a PLEUVELLA - one for rain, one for shade?

Dmitri Borgmann suggests replacing dIARTicular with semlARTiculate in "Complete Tetragram Permutations" - still not in the Pocket Dictionary, but far more intelligible to the average reader. Tom Pulliam notes that mlTRAl is not in the Pocket Dictionary, but nlTRate is.

No one sent in an answer to the Wombat rebus at the end of "Good-Bye, Dr. Wombat!" in the February 1984 Word Ways. The solution to this elaborate and ingenious linguistic rebus is as follows:

Rabbit: this stands for Spain, which the Phoenicians named for the rabbits or coney they found there (SuPHaN in Phoenician, often written SPN with indeterminate vowels, cognate to the Hebrew SHaPHaN); one of Hadrian's coins symbolizes Spain with a rabbit

River through apple orchards: apple orchards is MANZANARES in Spanish, and Madrid is located on the Manzanares River

Sun shining through portal: PUERTA DEL SOL is the name of the central square in Madrid, where people often meet

Wooden X with thongs: the cross on which St. Andrew was martyred (tied with thongs, so he would take longer to die) is known as a *crux decussata*; his festival is on November 30

Four notches on three legs: four score (notch = score) and three;

i.e., 83 (for 1983)

X again, and sun high in sky: 10 o'clock in the morning

Thus, the place and time is Puerta del Sol, Madrid, at 10 am on November 30, 1983.

Errata: In "A Sound-Alike Dictionary", aNTiSeRa was omitted as the NTSR entry. In "Names on the Border", the right-hand entry at the foot of the page should have been AL FL Alaflora AL. In "Analyzing Wiretaps", the airtw entry is WATIR, and in definition 5 Cnri Rt should be CRNI RT. Finally, in "An Elaborate Medieval Mnemonic", the Aristonian forms Cesaro (line 1) and Celaront (line 2) should be interchanged. Further, the word not should be deleted from the Third Figure and Fourth Figure syllogisms at the top of page 98.

Harry Partridge points out that ten of the Russian palindromes in the February 1984 **Word Ways** are defective because the soft sign (represented by an apostrophe) is a letter of the alphabet in Russian. He adds that translations should have been provided. Tit is Russian for 'Titus', a name given to serfs, and griboedov is 'mushroom-eater'.

Benjamin Zimmer of Flemington, New Jersey fills JJJW in "The 4-Set Problem" in the May 1983 issue with Djajawidjaja, an Indonesian mountain range in the Hammond Medallion World Atlas. The same reference lists Zzyzx Springs as the one-word Zzyzx, which improves XZZZ.

Philip Cohen writes on "A Smashing Victory":

I think he's definitely won; the common vigor and violence is clear. But everything else ranges from dubious to drivel. I'm particularly offended by the orthographic delusion that /sh/ = /s/ + /h/ .. [1] noted how long it took me to say 'trash' .. at normal speed, a bit under .5 second; quickly but clearly, a bit over .25 .. It's probably true that it takes longer than a word ending in a stop, but not by much. The attempt to cram 'flash' into the lengthy-action mold is a masterpiece of sophistry .. If he'd just let the words dictate the meaning - strength, vigor, force, violence all seem to fit '-ash' at least as well as lengthiness - it would have all made more sense.

Benjamin Zimmer adds two words to "My Set Piece" in the May 1982 Kickshaws: the I-transaddition to AGLNST given by ANGLTIS in Webster's Second, and the S-transaddition by GNA1STS or TASSING in the OED.

The Word Wurcher points out another solution to the Biblical pair associated with the dance ("Last Will and Testament" in the February 1984 Kickshaws): David and Michal. "Michal saw David dance (naked!), and commented on it - to her sorrow".

Tom Pulliam and Philip Cohen were confused by Alan Frank's scor-

ing system in "Consonant-Characterized Words"; the number of words given in Answers and Solutions do not jibe with the numbers in the article. The latter should have been labeled as par scores, recognizing the arcane nature of some of the OSPD words. Tom Pulliam notes that some reasonably common solutions from the Pocket Dictionary did not appear: Comanche (coachman), crenelate (lectern), buccaneer (carbonic), Amerindian (mannered).

Benjamin Zimmer fills the QXX hole in "Words Having Three Rare Letters" in August 1972 with XaXaQuine in Dorland's Medical Dictionary.

Martin Gardner notes the existence of a second Curiosities of the Bible, written by J.H. Vincent (1832-1920), a Methodist bishop in Buffalo and Topeka.

In the May Word Ways, Louis Phillips presented a collection of Knock-knock jokes and What's the Question riddles in "The Apple-Sauce Chronicles". According to Paul Dickson in his new book, Jokes (Delacorte, 1983), Knock-knock jokes may have originated with Dorothy Parker in 1920, but they did not become a national fad until the summer of 1936. What's the Question was introduced on Steve Allen's TV show in 1958, and a collection of these appeared in The Question Man (Bellmeadows Press, 1959).

Mary Hazard points out two rebus misinterpretations in "The Letter Rebus (Part 2)" in May:

BETH: aBoriginally is not a B followed by three dummy letters, but instead the Hebrew letter beth, the 'original' form of the letter B

Wangled is not the letter W turned on its side (though the form of the verse suggested this), but instead wan G led, clued by a fainter-than-normal letter G