A DIALOGUE OF NATIONS

PETER GAMBACCINI
New York, New York

Ed This was a good idea, coming here. I can use the recreation. Let’s play pool.
Ned Iraq?
Ed No, I’ll rack ’em. I think I’ll have some coffee, too.
Ned Sweden?
Ed No, I like it black, thanks.
Ned Haiti?
Ed It’s all right, but I prefer coffee. Let’s start playing.
Ned Italy?
Ed Sure, you can keep score. Gee, I haven’t been feeling too well. I’m really sick.
Ned Qatar?
Ed No, it’s just a sore throat. I guess I’ll get over it. Say, did you see the new diner across the street?
Ned Benin?
Ed No, but I’ve been meaning to go.
Ned Ghana?
Ed Yeah, maybe I’ll check it out after a couple of games.
Ned Congo?
Ed Sure, you can come, too. Pool first, though. I hope I can concentrate.
Ned Tunisia?
Ed Yeah, music does relax me; turn on the radio. I’ve been thinking too much about my business problems. Daniel turned out to be one crooked partner.
Ned Sudan?
Ed I may have to. I’ll say one thing — his wife Olivia is some babe.
Ned Bolivia?
Ed I wouldn’t mind that at all. Here, let me turn on the overhead light so I can see... Jeez, I got a shock!
Ned Upper Volta?
Ed No, it was pretty mild.
Ned Spain?
Ed Well, it does hurt a tad. I hope I can still play.
Ned Kenya?
Ed Yeah, I think I can. We have to pay in advance, though.
Ned Germany?
Ed Sure, I’ve got plenty of dough... Hmm, I’m not sure he gave me the right change.
Ned Egypt?
Ed Well, I’m not sure. Look at this ten dollar bill. That doesn’t...
look much like Alexander Hamilton.

Ned Israel?
Ed It looks counterfeit to me.

Ned Laos?
Ned Yeah, I'd say the cashier's a rotten SOB. I think he's gone, too. Must be his lunch hour.

Ned Uganda?
Ned No, I didn't get a very good look at him. Let's forget about it for now. You broke... Hmm, you didn't leave me with much.

Ned Angola?
Ed I'll have to, there aren't any straight setups.... Oops, I missed. I'm still sore from that soccer game yesterday. At least I scored a goal.

Ned Djibouti?
Ed No, it was a header. A flick of the neck and it went in.

Ned Ukraine?
Ed Yeah, I stuck my neck out pretty far.

Ned Mexico?
Ed Uh-huh, that's all it took. The ball went right into the corner of the net. The fans went wild.

Ned Andorra?
Ed She was pretty impressed. Usually, Dora doesn't like going to soccer games.

Ned Jamaica?
Ed No, the choice was entirely hers. She's OK, ya know? The tallest woman I've ever dated, although I don't know her precise height.

Ned Norway?
Ed Not that, either, but she's pretty slim. Anyway, I was glad to have her there. Of course, I wish Al hadn't shown up.

Ned Algeria?
Ed Yeah, I could hear him getting on me all afternoon.

Ned Estonia?
Ned No, he draws the line at violence. I lost him in the crowd after the game. I took Dora to that rock club where she hung out. The band was terrible.

Ned Singapore?
Ed He was pitiful. I've heard better in the shower. Trini, for one, is a much better singer. His marriage seems to be working out well.

Ned Trinidad?
Ed No, not yet, but he does want children. His wife Brit looks terrific. I saw her when they got back from the Caribbean.

Ned Britain?
Ed She got a lot of color, I'd say. She's one of the top veterinarians in this part of the state, ya know.

Ned Curaçao?
Ed She could probably cure a heifer, but she mostly takes care of household pets. Say, let's get on with the game... Remind me to call my mother later. The reviews of her new book just came out.

A REVIEW

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Ned Panama?
Ed Yeah, they were merciless. Let's say it wasn't the warmest critical reception.
Ned Chile?
Ed Frigid is more like it... Good shot. You win. Let's eat.
Ned Hungary?
Ed Starved. Let's go to the Irish place. At least it's clean. The exterminator comes in every month.
Ned France?
Ed I guess so, but mostly for cockroaches.
Ned Serbia?
Ed Sure, they've got good fast service. But I'm in a rush.
Ned Togo?
Ed Yeah, let's do a takeout.
Ned Kuwait?
Ed No, I'm running late. Get a move on. There's a cashier with firm upturned breasts and glistening thighs who's dying to meet you.
Ned Russia?
Ed No, she'll let you take your time. Your eyes'll pop out. Interested?
Ned Yemen!

A REVERSE ACRONYM DICTIONARY

In the February 1983 Word Ways, the Gale Research Company's eighth edition (1983-84) of Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary (AIAD) was briefly reviewed. It should have been pointed out that the AIAD is part of a larger set: a pair of supplementary volumes with new AIADs before the next complete revision, and the 2-volume Reverse Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary (RAIAD) selling for $120. As its name implies, this dictionary lists the word or phrase to be acronymed first (in alphabetical order), followed by its acronym. Presumably, these volumes are of most use to the writer who wishes to look up the proper abbreviation of some common word or phrase. Sometimes, there are many alternatives to choose from:

HEREF, HEREF, HEREFORDS (Herefordshire County, England) C, CH, CHAIR, CHM, CHMN, CHRM, CHRMN (chairman) C, CNTL, CNTRL, CON, CONT, CONTL, CONTR, CONTRL, CTL, CTRL (control)

Logologists might like to determine what word has the most acronymic alternatives, or try to write a story using acronyms as "words".