

## 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.

Dmitri Borgmann calls Eric Albert's attention to Malcolm Townsend's U.S.: An Index to the United States of America (Boston, D. Lothrop 1890) which on page 451 grades the blacks of Louisiana in considerable detail:

- 1/64 Black sang-mêlé
- 1/32 Black demi-meamelouc
- 1/16 Black meamelouc (mustafina)
- 1/8 Black metis or metif (mustee)
- 1/4 Black quarteron (quadroon)
- 1/2 Black mulatto

Is this hair-splitting necessary today? In the July 18 1983 issue of Time Magazine, a present-day Louisiana woman who is a sang-mêlé was classified as "colored" on her birth certificate; as a result a state law stipulating a person with more than 1/32 "Negro blood" is "nonwhite" was repealed.

Going in the other direction, Townsend calls a person 7/8 Black a **sacatra**, and a person 5/8 Black a **marabon** (not marabou). So what is the offspring of a mulatto and a quadroon, the only missing eighth?

Dmitri also mined Webster's Second and Third, the Funk & Wagnalls Unabridged, and Berry and Van Den Bark's American Thesaurus of Slang for many additional terms for racially mixed persons. Numerous synonyms for Black/White mixtures exist, especially for mulatto:

- MULATTO bleached ebony, mustard yellow, brass ankle, mahogany, brown polish, pardo, punkin yellow, tan, banana, browns and tans (pl.), griqua, high brown, high yellow, sepian, griffin, terceron, yellowback, griffin, casco (if both parents mulatto)
- QUADROON bird's eye maple, bright mulatto, morisco (in Mexico, if parents are mulatto and Spanish)
- OCTOROON albino (in Mexico), bird's eye maple, bright mulatto, metif, terceron, mustee (or mestee)
- QUINTROON dustee, mustafina (in West Indies)
- GRIFFE griffin

Other racial mixtures, with proportions usually ill-specified, include Haratin or Harratin (Berber/Sudanese Black), Nishada (Brah-

man/Sudra), Nonya (Malay mother/White father), Bastaard or Griqua (Bushman/Hottentot, or Bushman/Hottentot/White), Cafuso (in Brazil, Indian/Black), Cape Colored (in South Africa, Black/White or Malay White), Cholo (Spanish/Indian), Topas or Topass or Topaz (Christianized Indian/Portuguese), Sambo (Black/Indian), and Mix-Hellene (Greek/Barbarian). There are also many hyphenated combinations that are self-explanatory, such as Euro-Chinese.

Finally, Dmitri notes several terms in which the components of the mix are not clearly specified: half-blood, half-caste, cross, cross-breed, demisang (or demisangue), metif (in Canada), miscegenate or miscegene, mix-blood (mixed-blood), and Ramona (from the heroine of the novel by Helen Hunt Jackson).

A host of minor errata crept into "The Four-Set Problem" in May 1983: **Cazaux-Frechét** should be **Cazaux-Fréchet**, extinguisher-like is hyphenated, the BBXX word is **hexabromdioxypheylcarbinol**, tackle-box has no G and should be omitted, **traveling-wave-tube** and **hazelnut-weevil** are not capitalized, **Adzvavom** should be **Adz'vavom**, NUCL is the National Union Catalogue, OSNCP (US Board of Geographic Names Wade-Giles/Pinyin place name conversion book) was omitted from the references, and **pumpkinify**, **chylify** and **vampproof** were misspelled in Answers and Solutions. Alan Frank located **widow-wives** in a dictionary, so now all non-JXQ four-sets have been located. Two words from Darryl Francis's review of the O-Scz volume of the OED<sup>2</sup> Supplement, **ooja-ka-pivvy** ("quite Wodehausian" Philip Cohen comments) and **pyjimjams**, improve the four combinations JPVV, JVVY, JJPY and JJMY. Two other errors: the VVVV word is **nivvi-nivvi-nak-kak**, and the JQXZ word is **Ziq-Xhafej**.

Kyle Corbin has nearly equalled the 76-letter pangrammatic window from "Paradise Lost" cited by Eric Albert in the November 1981 issue. Recently he found the following 79-letter window in a February 1955 TV Guide article, "A Summer Show Hits The Jackpot": That's just one e[xample of how this new jackpot quiz program has captured the public imagination. On a hot July e]vening, when the most avid viewers usually would shun their TV sets to stay outdoors, millions of people throughout the country rushed to tune in The \$64,000 Question. He also found a 72-letter window, missing only V, in a Star Trek book. Once a book is on tape, this should be a snap for a computer to investigate.

Writes Philip Cohen: "William Sunners misses the whole point of cryptics, which is that (in square dealing clues, and even in a majority of clues in London-Times-style crosswords) there are two clues to the answer, which is true only of clue 5 in his puzzle. This double clueing is almost always enough to eliminate ambiguity. The example from Puzzle 23 [in Will Shortz's book] is one of the non-square-dealing clues ..."

Apologies to Mary Hazard, who was incorrectly identified as Mary Youngquist in the "Four Anagram Challenges" Colloquy in May 1983. (Alan Frank, however, points out that this is a better-known GQ bigram than the one reported in "676 Bigrams".) And two more readers came in with late entries:

## HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

Why, on Avon -- crummiest pastime (E.W.Theimer)

On a campout, with vermin. Messy! (Becky Swann)

HE WHO HESITATES IS LOST

Wait lest I shoe the hoss (Theimer)

The shiest waits solo, eh? (Swann)

## CORPORALS AND SERGEANTS

So glad NCOs are partners (Theimer)

## COMPUTER SCIENTISTS

Micro-set input sects (Swann)

MIT sect scores input (Theimer)

Becky Swann adds cost men strip cuties, referring to an incident in the late 1960s when IBM programmers modified an early graphics demonstration, featuring a scantily-clad miss named Sally, into an R-rated striptease!

Kyle Corbin, following up a suggested modification by Alan Frank to his 5-tile Scrabble record in May, presents the following six-point improvement. As before, the dictionary of record is Webster's Third.

[illegible]

Words and scores: DEHYDROFREEZING 46×3×3×3 = 1242, DEXTROVER-  
SION 23×3 = 69, ELICITATION 13, FRIGHTFULNESSES 25×3 = 75,  
ZEQUINE 35, GASTRONOMICALLY 23×3 = 69. Total: 1503 points.

Harry Partridge adds **Est Est Est**, a medium-dry white Italian wine in the Random House Unabridged, to Edward Wolpow's "Triple Tautonyms in Biology" in the May issue. Eugene Ulrich notes **Charles Charles**, the name of a young man who flew planes with Terry in the comic strip Terry and the Pirates.

In the May 1983 Colloquy, Philip Cohen noted that the entry AB-JOINTS/BANJOIST/BOSTANJI does not occur particularly early in an eight-letter anagram dictionary alphabetized by letters in alphabetical order (abjinost). Perhaps, he suggests, Tech Nishan was alphabetizing his dictionary by the earliest dictionary entry (ab-joints) instead. If this were Tech Nishan's intent, he was much more successful; the only entries preceding it are ABAISSED/DIA-BASES, ABELMOSK/SMOKABLE, ABETMENT/BATEMENT, and ABHORRED/HARBORED (or -ER/-ER).

In the course of compiling (by hand!) an anagram dictionary of 160,136 words, based almost entirely on Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language (1956) and the Merriam-Webster Third Edition, Unabridged (1967), Murray Geller of Sherman Oaks, California made a couple of discoveries relevant to past **Word Ways** articles:

INACCIDENTATED should be added to the tiny group of fourteen-letter pair isogram, listed in "An Overview of Isograms" in February 1974. Defined in the OED as "to unite with the 'accidents' (in reference to transubstantiation)", the word appears in a 1579 citation.

EQUITEMPORANEOUS, in Webster's Second, yields the letter-sequence MNOPQRSTU, betterins quadruplications in "Undominated Alphabetic Sequences" in May 1982.

In the February 1973 **Word Ways**, Darryl Francis began a type-collection of the 351 words having two pairs of like letters, going from AAAA, AABB, ... to ZZZY, ZZZZ. Philip Cohen made a number of additions in the November 1977 issue. In researching the four-set problem, he added several more words to the list:

Eseejja, variant name of Chama, a Bolivian language (Voegelin and Voegelin, Classification and Index of the World's Languages)  
Juujjuaraapik (for AAJJ), an Eskimo town (March 1982 National Geographic, map on page 385)

Lövvattnet, a populated place in Sweden (Official Standard Names Gazetteer)

Timmernabben, a populated place in Sweden (Official Standard Names Gazetteer)

Unna Avvakaj Jaure (JJNN, NNVV), a populated place in Sweden (Official Standard Names Gazetteer)

Coarvvevarre, a mountain in Sweden (Official Standard Names Gazetteer)

Tom Pulliam wonders whether the four-set problem explored by Philip Cohen in the May issue might work out better if the Dutch language were used instead of English. He notes that Dutch fills in a number of refractory sets: BFJP (koopbriefje), BFJW (buffetjuffrouw), BFPZ (frambozensap), KVWW (werkvrouw), KWWY (kwik-oxyde), FJWW (bewaarschooljuffrouw), FVWZ (zelfvertrouwen), VVWZ (zwavelzilver) and PVWZ (zwaveldamp).

Philip Cohen found a Strange Paradox in a dictionary phrase in Webster's Third: **healthy potato disease**. In the same vein, Louis Phillips wonders why we call white violets violet. And Tim Wheeler notes that Stark's Orchards are offering a Dwarf Giant pear, a nice oxymoron.

Philip Cohen adds the apocryphal Titty Titty Gang Bang to Eric Albert's collection of punning porno titles.

A mathematical error crept into John Candelaria's "A New Number Nomenclature" -- in the four "typewriter mountains" on pages 126 and 127 defining **millionillion**, **millitwoillion** and **millithreeillion**, all occurrences of +3) should be replaced with )+3. Also, viginti-sextillion should be written viginti-sexillion, in Table 2 an extra L was inserted in trillillion, in Table 1 10-90 should be 30-90, and in Table 3 billionillion should be preceded by 2.

Another goof: in "A Balancing Act" the phrase on page 101 is GRIZZLY SOT, WHILOM BRIGHT ROSE VANDAL.

Becky Swann writes regarding "Scottish Occupations" in the February Word Ways "I'm sure you have run across the iron-pumping MacHo clan, close relatives of the MacHe clan who pump paper."

Philip Cohen footnotes his "Final Bigrams" article in the August 1975 Word Ways with a better -FV ending: **Lillkalfv**, var. of Lillkalven Island, in the Swedish Official Standard Names Gazetteer.

Alan Frank adds (P)RECONS(O)LATION(S) and (P)REPOST(E)RATION(S) to Kyle Corbin's list of fifteen-letter words that become two six-letter words when the parenthesized letters are removed.

David Rosen adds the surname **Veee** to the examples given in Jeff Grant's "Consecutive Identical Letters" in August 1981. Julie Veee (pronounced like the letter V) is a professional soccer player for the San Diego Sockers of the Major Indoor Soccer League.