

## COLLOQUY

We are saddened to have received this note from Merlla McLaughlin on February 20, 2011 about her father **HOWARD BERGERSON**.

“My father passed away yesterday morning at 10:00 Pacific time. I was with him, and he went peacefully and with love.

He had been through a short illness (in addition to his diabetes and small strokes) that affected his ability to swallow safely, as well as gave him complicated infections that he hadn't the strength to fight, no matter the antibiotic the doctors tried.

Birthdays (other people's) were important to Dad. My cousins noted that he missed dying on his deceased baby sister's birthday, 2/12. I knew he wasn't going to make it to my mother's birthday, 2/26. However, I believe, if my math is right, that he died right between their birthdays.

Thank you both for appreciating my dad so much. There's not another like him in the world! (At least, until he gets good and ready to reincarnate.)”

**DON HAUPTMAN'S** April 1 article on his online language column (<http://www.earlytorise.com/author/don-hauptman>) contained April Fools' Day acronyms and initialisms. Some examples:

Stop sign (to some drivers) = “Start Tromping on Pedal”

U.S. Army (by mocking soldiers) = “Uncle Sam Ain't Released Met Yet”

Ford = “Fix Or Repair Daily”

**ANIL** reported in January:

Logologists and numerologists should welcome 2011 as an interesting year, aside from its containing four auspicious dates (1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11), as pointed out in last month's Kickshaws. It's also a balanced year, like a balanced word, in that the left side equals the right ( $2+0=1+1$ ). It's one of only three this century. (There were nine last century.) The others in 21C are 2002, already celebrated in WW as The Year of the Palindrome, and 2020, hopefully The Year of Perfect Vision. Then no more till 2103 if we get that far—thanks to the Vision of 2020? A striking coincidence, of interest to me alone no doubt, is that the first six balanced years I was alive were all key turning points in my life—birth, first move, HS grad, PhD, move to Oz, Mother's death. Am I destined to die in 2020?

**SOL GOLOMB** recently noticed that:

In the November, 2010, **WORD WAYS**, I was surprised to see, on p. 239 near the bottom, in the article on **HIGHLY IRREGULAR VERBS**, by Lederer and Mann, on the pattern of "tear, tore, torn" the example 'BEAR, BORE, BORN". They may have thought of BEAR as an animal and BORE as a person, but the verb "to bear" meaning "to give birth" conjugates in exactly this way, and shouldn't have been on their list.

Here is a response to their challenge for an illusory verb on the pattern of "forbid, forbade, forbidden". (The simpler form of this pattern is "bid, bade, bidden" as still commonly used with "farewell".) It is "mid, made, midden." (Any archaeologist can tell you what a "midden" is.) Other strong verb patterns they fail to mention that are hard to match include "steal, stole, stolen" and "weave, wove, woven".

My own collection is of words that look like tenses of non-existent verbs, for which I supply the "missing" parts. Thus, "to infrare" has the past form "infrared", while "weirdid" is the past tense of "weirdo". Similarly, "inget", "splendo", and "seab" are the present tense forms of "ingot", "splendid" and "seabed". A few present/past pairs have both elements seeming to (almost) make sense, like cando/candid, and sundry/sundried. (I could probably submit an article on this, but this already includes some of my best examples.)

On another subject, I suggest that 'HARASS SARAH' is a PALINDROME!

**RAYMOND SMULLYAN** is collecting definitions. Here are some musical ones that illustrate where he is coming from (reported by **TOM RODGERS**).

#### Musical Definitions

GROUP 1 [Some are original, others are already known, and others are variations of mine of known ones.]

Air--That which must be inhaled by singers before starting to sing.

Airs-- Peter Pears  
Needn't give himself airs.  
He has them written  
By Benjamin Britten.

Analysis--A musical dissection which, like an autopsy, results in a lifeless dismembered corpse.

Musical analysts are so-called because of their need to be psycho-analysed.

Applause--Noise made by audiences, usually between movements, to signify that they have heard enough!

Bach--He was the world's greatest composer, and so was Handel.

Bang Box--A less polite, but more accurate name for a piano.

Barcarole--Sound made by a rolling dog. A famous Barcarole was composed by one who himself would often-bark.

Bass--A musical fish with a low voice.

Bassoon--A wind instrument played by buffoons and suitable for baboons.

Beethoven--A composer who had hearing problems, hence wrote music that was very loud.

Bronze--The last name of a composer who wrote four great symphonies.

His first name was  
Johannes.

Bram--The composer of Brahms's symphonies.

Carmen--Parking attendants.

Cellist-- One who greets one with "Cello!"