

## 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 at least one month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.*

In "Phobia and Counterphobia" in the May issue, Paul Hellweg defines homophobia as "fear of sameness". The Word Wurcher notes that in San Francisco and Los Angeles this word is used in the sense of "fear of homosexuals", particularly as potential carriers of AIDS.

In the May 1973 *Word Ways*, the editor claimed that a twelve-step word ladder was needed to connect IVY with YOU using only Webster's Pocket Dictionary words. Not so, says Kyle Corbin; it can be done in nine, with IVY-icy-ice-ace-aye-dye-doe-don-yon-YOU. He conjectures that the span of the three-letter word network with respect to Pocket Webster is 11: IVY-icy-ice-ire-irk-ink-inn-ion-son-soy-sky-SKI. Can anyone find two Pocket Dictionary words that require at least 12 steps to connect? Or connect IVY and SKI in fewer than 11? Computer studies ought to answer this problem for words of various lengths with respect to the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary.

In the August 1981 *Word Ways*, Ed Wolpow noted that the French deux cent vingt deux sums to 222 if one sets A = 1, B = 2, etc. Dmitri Borgmann has found that the German zweihundertsieben similarly sums to 207. Using alternative versions of number names, he has also constructed three English-language examples:

251 two hundred and fifty-one  
 146 one four six  
 200 two ought ought

In defense of the third, he notes that ought is a variant of aught in five current collegiate dictionaries.

Joan Griscom reports the name Bahama Mama, a stutter, for a Key West clothing store. John Henrick nominates the Seattle store named Foxy Lady Anonymous Designer Samples & Consignment Shop as a candidate for the longest clothing store name.

David Shulman defends his criticism of the Mary Whitehouse anagram (I may rue the show) in the *Oxford Guide to Word Games* by asserting that well-known names ought to be given anagramming preference. In the National Newspaper Index March 1982 - August 1985, Mary Whitehouse is cited only once.

Three readers responded to Louis Phillips' call for spelling jokes. Martin Gardner sent in the following:

Teacher: Johnny, how do you spell Mississippi?

Johnny (just back from the bathroom): MIS a couple of times,  
IS a couple of times, IP a couple of times.

John Henrick adds:

Father: I wouldn't eat frog's legs for all the tea in China.

Daughter: I wouldn't, either, Dad - there is no T in China.

He thinks that it was in Maledicta that he saw how Anita Bryant spells relief - A-I-D-S. Philip Cohen submits the following dialogue:

He: What happened to your nose?

She: I was smelling a brose.

He: There's no B in rose.

She: There was in this one!

Philip Cohen describes the football star who, flunking English, was given a chance to redeem himself if he could spell coffee with even one letter correct. His answer? K-A-U-P-H-Y.

In "Hair-it-is" in the May 1979 *Word Ways*, Caesar Crimi was identified as a South Orange, New Jersey beauty parlor owner who was sued by Caesar's World for wrongly appropriating the name Caesar's Palace. He must have decided that it was wiser to switch than fight, for his obituary in July 1985 identifies him as the owner of Moods in Hair for the past 25 years!

Was Count Dracula's first name Voivode, as asserted by Eric Albert in the May Kickshaws? The *Word Wurcher* writes "It is true that the original Dracula was a voivode, voevod, or voevoda, but that is a Slavic military title (abounds in Szenkiewicz's With Fire and Sword, and the Voivode of Vilna's beautiful daughter was Andrei's light o' love in Gogol's Taras Bulba). Dracula's name is often given as Vlad Tepes or Vlad Tepeş."

Dmitri Borgmann notes the following errata in Part 2 of "Long Isograms": (1) GINERVA should have been written GINEVRA (p. 142); (2) least should have been underlined in "least gin-stealing" (p. 143); (3) Intertransnistrias should have been written Intratransnistrias; (4) TRIANGLE/INTEGRAL-ALERTING should have been TRIANGLE/INTEGRAL-ALTERING (p. 146); (5) hexed should have been hexad (p. 147).

Philip Cohen wonders "if TITANIA'S probability [of occurring at random in Shakespearean text] is really that low - after all, we'd be surprised too at an acrostic for a person referred to in the passage, or even a significant word in it (like fairies) - it may be only post-facto exceptional."

Harry Partridge asks "Have you ever noticed that a prime characteristic of verse under constraint (Bergerson, Shedlofsky) is the practically total absence of the definite article THE?"

The Word Wurcher footnotes one of Eric Albert's Kickshaws by noting that German has two analogues to **hopefully**: **hoffnungsvoll** ("in a manner full of hope") and **hoffentlich** ("hopingly" or "trustingly"). He believes the latter is the closer cognate, for **hoffend** is the present participle of the verb "to hope" and **-lich** is the English **-ly**.

In "Formal Analogy is Best" in the May issue, the answer labeled 9 should have been labeled 10, and the correct answer to 9 is "commercial aircraft salesmen" or "sumo wrestlers".

Maxey Brooke updates R. Robinson Rowe's February 1977 study of bathroom nomenclature by citing restrooms aboard a boat conducting bird-watchers to The National Whooping Crane Sanctuary near Rockport, Texas: Whoopers and Whoopettes.

Dmitri Borgmann adds two more soft-G examples to his February 1985 article, "The 'G' Spot": FRIG (British form of 'fridge') and CHARG-ALL (the name used by Montgomery Ward for its credit card). Both of these belong to the highest, purest category of G-words.

Verbatim Books regrets to announce that the price of Colonial American English, reviewed in the August issue, has been increased to \$24.95. On the other hand, William Sunners writes that the price of "1551 Palindromes" is \$5, not \$10.

The editor neglected to append a note at the start of "Shakespeare, The Car Salesman" mentioning its original publication in the May 13, 1975 issue of the Vancouver Sun.

Harry Partridge points out that the editor neglected to mention in "Renaming the Months" that December is the only month to use the letter D. Philip Cohen's comment: "Can't be done."

In "More N-Tile Scrabble Records" in the February 1984 **Word Ways**, the 9-turn game record can be improved by two points by substituting HERDWICK for HAVELOCK, states Kyle Corbin.

David Halprin of Victoria, Australia wonders whether Dmitri Borgmann has noticed that mathematics and logology do mix: LOGOLOGIST can be anagrammed into GOOGOL LIST (a very long word list!).

Brian Head of Romsey, Hants, England sends in the latest self-descriptive sentence by Lee Sallows and Victor Eijkhout:

What sentence in this **Mathematical Gazette** contains seven A's, four C's, thirty-two E's, eight F's, five G's, ten H's, twelve I's, three L's, three M's, fifteen N's, eight O's, one Q, seven R's, twenty-seven S's, twenty-five T's, four U's, eight V's, seven W's, four Y's & two Z's?