

## 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.*

Most of the high-single-move or high-game scores in Scrabble that have been presented in **Word Ways** were achieved under highly artificial conditions, requiring cooperation between the players involved. The highest Scrabble scores arising in (say) tournament games are less well-known. The Scrabble Omnibus (1984) by Gyles Brandreth describes a game score of 774 points achieved by Allan Simmons of London on July 11, 1981. Jeff Grant notes that Simmons' sixth move directly exposed the bottom left-hand triple-triple word square, yet incredibly this remained unexploited by either player for fifteen moves! In most tournament games, Jeff Grant believes that anyone exposing a triple-triple word square is unlikely to have it available for play on his next move. He calls this a fine example of collaborative Scrabble.

Reading "A Comber Comes a Cropper" in the May 1987 issue, both Philip Cohen and Eric Albert take Harry Partridge to task for Dr. Wombat's passing allusion to AIDS among homosexuals: "nasty and tasteless" and "extremely offensive...[his] remarkable callousness is difficult to understand and to forgive". The editor charitably believes Dr. Wombat's remark to be thoughtless and insensitive rather than deliberately intended to insult; nevertheless, he apologizes for this editorial lapse. Logology is intended to offer a respite from the manifold ills of modern society, not exacerbate them.

Edward Wolpov fills one of Dana Richards' four holes in "Vowel Structure" with EUUU pEdUncUlUs, in Webster's Second and Third editions. UUAU is found in the second word of Webster's Second phrase usurae UsUrArUm; how about a single word? Any candidates for lUuo and UUUO?

Philip Cohen offers a much-belated addendum to Darryl Francis' "Words With Two Pairs of Like Letters" in the February 1973 **Word Ways**: in the Official Standard Names Guide (China), he located the lake aQQiKKol hu.

The North Central Names Society Bulletin (Spring 1987) footnotes Timothy Wheeler's "Basketball Names" with the longest name ever recorded for a college basketball player: Ajouritsedabi Oreghoyeyere Memaridieyin Okordudu, who played for Bucknell in 1980. In the 1950s, Temple University sported a basketballer named Bill Mlkvy, popularly known as the "Owl Without a Vowel."

The Word Wurcher went into quite some detail to bring out the origin of M, the Roman numeral, but the editor did not reproduce it in the May Colloquy, leading to George Scheetz's comments in August. Mediaeval Roman numerals don't count. The Word Wurcher's point was that DCLXVI contains every element of Roman numeration when the Apocalypse was written: reverse C, C, L, X, V and I.

Errata: In the August Kickshaws, the "slight knock-knock joke" on Theresa was a "sight knock-knock joke." In line 18 of Jay Ames' poem in "All Is Vanity," CWN's a dog. In "Kophobelemnonidae," the word parachides should be pararachides.

Jeff Grant suggests the 20-letter Webster's Second word counterrevolutionize as the longest dictionary verb, in answer to Edward Wolpow's August 1987 Kickshaws query. There ought to be a verb corresponding to the 22-letter immunosympathectomized, in the OED Supplement, but it is not specifically given.

Two recent classic Reaganagrams appeared in the Enigma, the publication of the National Puzzlers' League: PRESIDENT REAGAN/IRANGATE ENDS REP (February 1987) by Murray Pearce, and PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN/PLANNED IRANGATE ORDERS (March 1987) by William Moles.

Edward Wolpow notes that Darryl Francis could have filled in several of his missing JADE tetragram orders using words from "Jejuniana" in February 1984:

adej: cArDiojEJunopexy  
aedj: intrAhEpatoDuctoJejunostomy  
aejd: esophAgojEJunoDuodenal

And keeping the four letters together, Philip Cohen mined the Official Standard Names Gazetteers for examples:

adej: rADEJna (Yugoslavia)  
ajde: hAJDErovci (Yugoslavia), mAJDEvo (Yugoslavia)  
ajed: zAJEDnica (Yugoslavian mountain)  
daej: DAEJeon (South Korea)  
edaj: dEDAJ (Albania, Yugoslavia)  
ejda: mEJDAn (Yugoslavian mountain)  
jeda: hassi JEDAd (Morocco)

Both he and the Word Wurcher noted the name of the present king of Thailand, Bhumibol AdulyADEJ (in Webster's Collegiate, 9th Edition). For transadditions, Philip Cohen added:

+B: Bedaj (Albania)  
+D: Dedaj (Albania, Yugoslavia)  
+M: Mjeda (Albania, var. of Mjedë)  
+P: Padej (Albania)

Murray Pearce adds to Philip Cohen's vowel-dense words in "Vowel-Consonant Patterns" in the November 1977 **Word Ways**: Uaiauaka, a Venezuelan river on a map in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

The Word Wurcher says of Canetti: "Good God Almighty! How disgusting can you get? 'Words sucked full, like bedbugs!' Ugh, ugh, and triple ugh."

Wallace Ashby nominates Steven Cushing's "doberperson" in "Degeneration of Modern English" as the **Word Ways** word of the year.

Anthony Sebastian calls Richard Lederer's attention to Weigh the Word (Harper, 1957), edited by Charles B. Jennings, Nancy King, and Marjorie Stevenson, which contains W. F. Miksch's humorous interview with Infield Ingersoll, sportscaster ex-shortstop who regularly irregularizes regular verbs. A sample:

Asked to explain how he came to leave baseball, the colorful Ingersoll told the story of the day his team, the Wombats, plew the Pink Sox, when he, momentarily blound by the sun as he raught for a high fly wang out by a Sox batter, caught the ball only by a stroke of luck after it nuck his glove and skam the top of his shoe. Surprose when the umpire cell the batter safe, Ingersoll yold that the decision smold. The umpire, not luck by the crowd, who thrould roaringly at Ingersoll's courage, whoze asthmatically for Ingersoll to get off the field, not knowing he had invote disaster until Ingersoll swang at him and lood a hard right square on the jaw...

Frances Hunte of Alhambra, California notes that the joke-naming of an office jointly occupied by a psychiatrist and a proctologist dates back at least 50 years: in the "Tonics and Sedatives" column of the Journal of the American Medical Association in the late 1930s, the name "Odds and Ends" was proposed.

In the May 1986 issue, the editor presented a number of real-life anagrammatic names like Gary Gray and Edna Dean. Timothy Wheeler recently sent a clipping from the Indianapolis Star (August 15, 1987) showing a picture of an infant named Sirrah Harris.

Maxey Brooke adds to the collection of coined words with multiple hyphens: bodies-which-have-been-in-the-water-several-days, from P.G. Wodehouse's The Girl in Blue.