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.

Leonard Gordon notes that the WordPerfect spell checker, SPELL, has powerful features not noted by Sebastian. You do not need to modify the dictionary; you can create your own from scratch, reading data from disk or ASCII files. It uses condensed storage (one-third the memory space of BASIC). It can be operated as a stand-alone: copy the dictionary onto the V-disk of your MS/DOS computer and the look-up will be fast and quiet (less wear on the drive).

```
O  C  T  A  C  T  I  N  A  L
C  H  I  T  A  R  R  O  N  I
T  I  M  A  L  I  I  N  A  E
A  T  A  S  C  A  D  E  R  O
C  A  L  C  I  C  O  L  E  S
T  R  I  A  C  E  T  A  T  E
I  R  I  D  O  T  A  S  I  S
N  O  N  E  L  A  S  T  C
A  N  A  R  E  T  I  I  A
L  I  E  O  S  E  S  C  L
```

Frank Rubin footnotes his February 1989 article "10-by-10 Squares: Progress Report" with the 9,7 square displayed at the left, the first one with these dimensions that he has discovered. Note that it can be easily changed to an 8,8 square.

Commenting on John Holgate's "Medical Curiosities", Ed Wolpow notes that Henry Head was a pioneer in neurology, and there is a contemporary authority on higher cortical function named W. C. Dement. The Swedish scientist O. Eeg-Olofsson works in the field of electroencephalography (abbreviated EEG); it would seem that he had no other choice of medical career. The editor's ophthalmologist is Dr. Einaugler (one-eye). Judith Bagai sent in a clipping advertising Drs. Bilovsky and Smiles, specialists in dent-implants, oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Ed Wolpow amends "A Seat in Loge A" by noting the need for an extra E in the verb forms of **loger** to preserve the soft G sound: logeais, logeait, logeaient. Harry Partridge points out that **l'haut j'ai** violates a cardinal rule of French grammar: no elision of the article before **haut** or its derivatives. Bertrand Denoix of Paris (a computer pen pal of Philip Cohen's) says that **l'Auge hais** is ungrammatical (should be **hait**, not **hais**). Also, the **je** is fully pronounced in **l'eau je hais**, as is **jeu** in **l'eau jeu hais** and **l'os jeu hais**.

Harry Partridge believe that using Mario Pei as a reliable source of linguistic palaver is like quoting Shirley MacLaine to bolster a factual discussion. "Distrust any book entitled Our Marvelous Anything".

Maxey Brooke adds an amusing footnote to Alan Buczynski's discussion of tool names. During World War II he was an engineer for a construction project, and as a consequence fraternized with the local iron-workers. One of these, Johnnie, decided to go down to Houston to work at the Todd Shipyard, but in two weeks he was back. "What's the matter, Johnnie?" asked Maxey, "didn't you like building ships?" Johnnie replied "That's a stupid bunch, there; do you know they call a come-along a coffer jack?"

Joel Funk has introduced a variety of Qwaints to his college psychology class on Creativity. Some of the more mundane efforts are words like ST R E   T   C   H, but some get quite creative. One girl went to the board and put a frame around a blank space; when Funk asked her what the word was, she replied "Invisible". He remembers seeing the Qwaint λOGA many years ago.

John Henrick has constructed a few more anagrams of WHAT IS THE MEANING OR PURPOSE OF LIFE. The ANSWER: LO, IT'S EGO, FAME, FORTUNE -- HIP, HIP! How fitting, he notes, for the days of the Me Generation. Two others are TO REFUTE NIHILISM, SPAWN HOPE. GO, FEAR! and LEARN FROM THE PAST: I.E., I HUG, POISON FEW. The latter seems to be a variant of the adage Make Love, Not War. Jeff Grant suggested the cry of an obese punster I'M OUT FOR WEIGH OF ETERNAL HAPPINESS.

Dave Morice writes "Your word network study reminds me of Mandelbrot's fractals, and the article in [the May] issue brought it out more clearly with its discussion of islets, islands, isthmuses, and how they interact as words are added to the network. It would be very interesting to somehow program a computer to graphically chart the growth and display it in some geometric form ... The word network may be a linguistic fractal, [since] smaller or larger samples display similar features. The dynamic, amorphous structure can't be predicted by any specific laws, but can be observed and discussed."

Errata: on page 104 of Kickshaws, **Statesmens** should have been **Statesmans**, and on page 110 CANOITE was omitted from the second square. In "Beyond Quinquennially", Portnoy's "scream" has 231 A's, not 321, and the Finnegans Wake Q-word ends -QUOIQ. In "Superdemons" in Kickshaws, the answer to "shuh-voo-oss" is given as Shabuoth. Joel Funk notes that the pronunciation is Ashkenazi but the spelling is Sephardic (the Sephardic pronunciation would be "shuh-voo-oth"). The most egregious blunder, that of misidentifying J. Danforth Quayle as Daniel Quayle, is discussed in Kickshaws elsewhere in this issue.