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.*

Oops! Howard Bryks, Leonard Gordon and Sir Jeremy Morse discovered that four of Peter Newby's Literate Cryptarithms have alternate solutions: NINE + NINE + NINE = HELP works for NINE equal to 1216, WRONG + WRONG = RIGHT works for WRONG equal to 12867, FACET + FACET + FACET = WHOLE works for WHOLE equal to 54279, and BRAZIL - TREES = DESERT works for DESERT equal to 271769 and 865647. Peter Newby is now working on a sequel to "Literate Cryptarithmetic" in which one can finesse multiple solutions by means of "riders" (additional constraints on the problem). In the meantime, the contest for the best original unique-solution literate cryptarithm is still in progress (old chestnuts like SEND + MORE = MONEY need not apply); several readers have already sent in entries. The results will be announced in May.

When the editor queried how many WORDs created a PICTURE, cryptarithmetically speaking, he forgot that this question had been in part answered in the February 1972 Kickshaws: one can have 665 different solutions, ranging from a low of 112 to a high of 9229 WORDs per PICTURE. The upper value has since been increased to 9238, by Mike Morton and Eric LeVasseur. Leonard Gordon noted that the closest one can approach 1000 from below is 964 ($4062 \times 964 = 3915768$), and Eric LeVasseur bounded it from above with 1015 ($7943 \times 1015 = 8062145$). LeVasseur notes that one can get much closer to 1000 if the integrality condition is waived: $7012 \times 996.20837... = 6985413$.

Pete Stickland is skeptical of "Is English Gematria?" noting that almost anything can be proved: would Peterson have included the finding that JESUS = 74 = LUCIFER? Philip Cohen adds "Who'd'a thought you could find a piece of nonsense to match the other crank English-analysis book you discussed about 10 years ago [Burger's The Word-Tree, November 1984]?" An error crept into the first example: HOPE, not LORD, is equivalent to FAITH. Joel Funk corrected the Hebrew counting system: after qoph, the letters are scored 100, 200, 300, etc., not 110, 120, 130.

Kyle Corbin footnotes his February 1989 long transposal article with SERGEANT MAJORS OF THE ARMY / SERGEANTS MAJOR OF THE ARMY and SERGEANT MAJORS OF THE MARINE CORPS / SERGEANTS MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS, both in Webster's Third.

Leonard Gordon has established the largest stepladder fragments with respect to the OSPD. One can connect BATES and DARER to the CARES stepladder in the November Kickshaws (page 240) for a total of nineteen words. The second-largest stepladder, with seventeen words, is given below:

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                            kinds
                            kines
                    limes--lines-liner
     kikes-likes-mikes-miles-mimes--mines-miner      add nines to mines
        liker        miler-mimer minds        |
                            +------------+
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Two stepladders contain fourteen words. One is given below, and the other is the LIKE stepladder in November, with KIKE added.

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    nates-mates              nares-nards-narcs-marcs
       mater-maser           mares
       later-laser-lases-lares-lards
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Finally, he notes that the BURR stepladder can be enlarged with DURR and CURT for a total of twelve words, and the RAKE stepladder can be enlarged with TAKE and RALE for eleven. Note that the DART stepladder falls apart in the OSPD, for DATS, EAUS and GAUS are not found there.

Sir Jeremy Morse suggests shortening the FOUR to FIVE ladder in "Lewis Carroll's Word Ladders" with FOUR-foud-fond-find-fine-FIVE; FOUD is in Webster's Second and Chambers. Philip Cohen notes that one can omit EMIT in the third EVIL to GOOD ladder on page 226.

Mike Morton notes that the longest alternating monotony, humuhumu-nukunukuapuaa, is up for re-election (by schoolchildren) as the Hawaiian state fish in 1990; the legislature, assessing the cost of a "thoughtful" campaign (as opposed to the rather loose one in 1985), believes it might well require $100,000, including such beguiling items as $12,000 for producing fish costumes for performers. Mike asks "Perhaps you should solicit contributions for a logologist's PAC to further our cause."

Barry Tunick's Swiss wife amends Dave Morice's Polyglot Christmas; Glad Jul is more likely to be heard in Sweden than in Switzerland.

Bob Marvin and Sir Jeremy Morse answer Dave Morice's query about the plural of REREMOUSE. The latter says "REREMICE is right, as DORMICE and WOODLICE, all being kinds of mouse or louse. Per contra, MONGOOSES and WAYZGOOSES are right, not being kinds of goose. So should be TITMOUSES and COALMOUSES, not being kinds of mouse but [birds]...More recently the incorrect plurals TITMICE and COALMICE have become established."

Errata: In "To Free Up A Wealth Of Shining Promise" replace philosophies with philosophers in stanza 5, page 244. The second answer in the Suffix Quiz should be princes, princess. In "Beyond Automynorcagrams" omit kindred from the initial quotation. In "Palindrome Trans-3-Deletions" omit the last line in column one, and

correct 1MPSLER (under -dno) to 1MPALER. Philip Cohen adds Webster's Second entries -opr IDLEMAN, -lno P1ER DAM; words to be added to existing entries include -dil ROPEMAN, -din PALERMO, -dip MORAINE, -eop RIMLAND, and -mnr ELAPO1D.

Leonard Gordon objects to Jeff Grant's apposition of "mental" with manual methods in logology (implying computer programming is not mental activity). Frank Rubin flatly disagrees with Jeff Grant's assertion that the computer does all the real work; the intelligence has been supplied by the programmer in writing the algorithm, and all the computer does is try many different choices of words. He proposes that logologists and computer mavens form a partnership, the one providing the word choices, the other the programming and algorithmic design. Humans can be well-employed in following up leads suggested by partial computer solutions (such as looking in various references for words beginning TRENON- or AL-R1C-). To each his own: Leonard Gordon sums up the matter with "1f a man enjoys using a computer, fine. 1f he takes more time to solve a problem that way, so what?"

Leonard Gordon asserts that computers can always beat humans in a straightforward search, but when judgement is involved this is no longer so. For example, lay four ten-letter words across the top of a square; a human can see at a glance if there is a place where a vertical word is impossible, but a computer has to test each case to the bitter end. Persons using computers must exercise judgement in choosing problems; it is all-too-easy to pick out ones that are either trivial or hopeless.

The longest main entry in Webster's Second has 46 letters (and 5 spaces), not 43; Kyle Corbin discovered CHARACTER1ST1C FUNCTION OF A CONTACT TRANSFORMATION.

Philip Cohen comments "lt's worth pointing out [Scheetz's article on -gry words] to contributors as a model. lt starts with an interesting problem and covers it thoroughly in many ways; not just the 51 -gry words, but explanations of how they were found, a classification to give order to the collection, notes on proposed but unacceptable solutions, and detailed sources for all, including inferred forms (all historically plausible, none mere inventions). Plus a historical survey of the problem and some philosophico-logological thoughts on the subject. Great! Most problems don't lend themselves to treatment in all these ways, but for those that do, Scheetz has shown the way to do it."

B. Marck Rabbitbasket wonders why no one has noticed that there are only three -gry adjectives: hungry, angry and meagry.

Jeff Grant adds to the small stock of trio isograms with POPPOLOLL, a kind of fruit drink from Yorkshire (English Dialect Dictionary).

GARY GRAY is the commonest first-name-anagram-of-the-last, as discussed in the May 1986 Word Ways. The Jan 1 1990 issue of Time contains a letter from Gary Gray of Valparaiso, Indiana.

Pete Stickland responded to "How I Find an Anagram" as follows: "Henrick's anagramming method is not my cup of tea. Using pencil and paper is cumbersomely time-consuming. As for me, a rank ana-gramateur, I like tiles that click – in more ways than one! Ana-grams are not made, they're there, in their zillions, waiting to be sorted out. Using the 31 letters of WHAT IS THE MEANING OR PURPOSE OF LIFE, I once sprang four in quick order. West Bank Justice was my theme for a rhymed quatrain. Israel's Hebraic law, 'an eye for an eye,' applies only to Jews. Palestinians enjoy a stricter rule, 'a house for a stone,' whereby non-Jewish missilemen see their homes destroyed in swift retaliation. At first I tried to say too much, fiddle-faddling for 10 minutes before releasing PILE UP GRIEF IN THROW OF A STONE! SHAME.. My rhyme set, I scrambled all tiles but -AME and made a natural...a lucid anagram that nat-urally and uncannily follows your train of thought, requiring little or no revision as the words form, and in which the dregs (leftover letters) quickly make a word or words pertinent to your theme. Here, my thought was 'for showing up Israeli name.' As I began, adjacent letters prompted minor additions, dregs EPT indicated 'pet,' and the anagram became FOR THE SHOWING UP OF ISRAELI PET NAME (time, 30 seconds). I now cursed myself for using A in the rhyme, precluding 'Palestinian.' Settling for 'Palestine hous-ing,' I lucked into another natural; HEW PALESTINE HOUSING FOR PROFIT AME jumped out, 'ame' being obsolete for 'aim' (time, 30 seconds). Two naturals in a row was a first for me, and my tile hand shook as I tackled the last line. Will anyone accept that I revealed a third natural? Hardly – and yet O NO! WHIP A PURIST FOR FEELING THE SAME! emerged, the last three words a rather lackluster expression for 'sticking to principles.' This took a min-ute, making 12 minutes for the quatrain...I see no likelihood of quick action from pencil and paper usage, with alphabetized letters suggesting absolutely zip to an agile brain capable of picking up zillionth-of-a-second subliminal messages from tiles scattered haphazardly in just the 'right' arrangement." Pete Stickland re-cently sent in 300 more anagrams of Henrick's phrase for Word Ways publication.

John Robert Colombo sent in a quasi-logological analysis of Canadi-an prime ministers in the spirit of the "charmingly wayward schol-arship" of John Holgate's Australian prime ministers. Although too long and specialized to repeat in full, here are the recent ones:

MULRONEY his name in Joual (Quebec street slang) is mal-runnez, "badly run"

TURNER may possibly be a variant of tornere, Old French for "a variety of fancy pigeon" or "a performer of gymnastics". Turner went through the "prime" motions in a pigeon-toed manner

TRUDEAU the literal meaning of his name in French is "water hole" Nixon was wrong when the Watergate tapes caught him calling Trudeau an asshole

CLARK a variant of the word clerk, which derives from the Old English cleric (an official who has charge of records, correspon-dence, etc.) – epitomizing the interim Clark administration