

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.*

Writes Jeff Grant "I thoroughly enjoyed Darryl Francis's 'Naughty Words in British Placenames'." Quickly scanning the International Register of Postal Offices, he found ARSE (Indonesia), ANUSHakti (India), BlackBALL (New Zealand), BASTARDo (Italy), BOTTOM (Antilles), BREASTworks (Jamaica), BUMbunga (Australia), BUMpASS (USA, Virginia), BUGGERu (Italy), COCKburn (Australia), CONDOM (France), CRAPonne (France), CUNTer (Switzerland), DICKey (USA, North Dakota), FANNY Bay (Canada), FARTura (Brazil), GAYsville (USA, Vermont), HARDON (India), HOMOrud (Hungary), HORNY Bar (Czechoslovakia), PENIscola (Spain), PETERswell (Ireland), PISSDorf (Germany), PRICKly Pole (Jamaica), ROGERS pASS (Canada), SHITaka (Japan), SOD (USA, West Virginia), SUCKow (Germany), TITrod (India), TURDa (Romania), and WANKe (India). Then there's the pho-netic FUKU, in China.

Inspired by OGURAQT in "Groucho Plays Scrabble" (**Word Ways**, February 1991), Edward B. Clarke of Cornwall, England sent in the following K9 narrative by his late friend, Derek Smith:

KT, UMN8XTC. Y?
 O, U8Aπ4T!
 IνU2BOE. π4T? UR2OBBB2ηπ.
 URAOE1, U 144 K9!
 (O, XLNC, BB9. 1XQQQKT, 4KTTTAPQC!)

Katie, you emanate ecstasy. Why?
 Oh, you ate a pie for tea!
 I knew you to be naughty. Pie for tea? You are too obese to eat a pie.
 You are a naughty one, you gross canine!
 (Oh, Excellency, be benign. I excuse Katie, for Katie's a Peke, you see.)

Did Dmitri Borgmann actually create the name EXXON? He detailed his search for a new name for Esso (without identifying the company) in the May, August and November 1968 issues of **Word Ways**; Charles Bostick excerpted Exxon's side of the story in February 1982. Recently, Howard Bergerson informed the editor that Dmitri's son, Keith, told him in a phone conversation that Dmitri thought of EXON, but his wife Iris proposed the second X. Going over his correspondence with Dmitri, Howard noted that Dmitri frantically

sent ever-longer lists containing hundreds of suggestions including EXON -- but no EXXON.

Dan Tilque writes "The Fantasy Cities section [of the February 1991 Kickshaws] should have given credit to Dmitri Borgmann for prior publication if not originating the concept. The idea along with several of the relocated towns appeared in Language on Vacation. I also note that you can do the same with the two letter postal abbreviations of the states. For example, LIS, IL does not even have to move but SKENE, MS needs to move to KS."

Vernon MacLaren of Augusta, Maine has come up with a long list of "I'll Haves" (apropos foods for various occupations, such as carrots for a jeweler). A sampling:

| | |
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| ALLERGIST cashews | MATHEMATICIAN pie |
| BARBER hare | MODEL cheesecake |
| BOXER scrapple, punch, black-eyed peas | ORNITHOLOGIST perch |
| BULLFIGHTER capon | PHILOSOPHER sage |
| CARPENTER pound cake, plum pudding | PHOTOGRAPHER cheese, ginger snaps, snap beans |
| CHEF cookies | PIANIST tuna |
| CLOCKMAKER thyme | PLUMBER leeks |
| COWBOY pinto beans, horseradish | PODIATRIST corn |
| DENTIST grinder, root beer | POLITICIAN waffles, fudge |
| DRESSMAKER scallops | PROCTOLOGIST buns, apple duff |
| ELECTRICIAN currants | PROSTITUTE layer cake, tart |
| FINANCIER fortune cookie | PSYCHIATRIST noodles, nuts, crackers, fruit cake |
| GARDENER root beer, prunes | RETAILER turnover |
| GENETICIST bread | SEAMAN saltines, navy beans, submarines |
| HISTORIAN pasta | TAXI DRIVER cabbage |
| LIMBO DANCER duck | TRASH COLLECTOR dumplings |
| MASTER OF CEREMONIES | UROLOGIST peas |
| toast, roast beef | VALET dressing |
| MATCHMAKER pears | VINTNER grapefruit |
| | WEATHERMAN seasoning |
| | WEIGHTLIFTER mussels |

Oops! The Saddam Hussein palindrome by Jeff Grant in the May 1991 issue was a lipogram (omitting the letter E), not a pangram. Michael Helsem offers a small correction to his Kickshaws palindromes cited in May: WOLF, I AM A LLAMA, I FLOW was composed by Liz Was, of Madison WI.

Jeff Grant adds TIGRY (a yellow hawk with black-edged feathers, listed in the English Dialect Dictionary) to George Scheetz's definitive collection of -gry words in the November 1989 Word Ways.

Frank Rubin found in the Apr 14 1991 New York Times (Reporter's Notebook) Mafoudh Beouï, whose surname contains all five vowels adjacent to each other (like mIAOUED).

Howard Bergerson some years ago noticed a pangrammatic sentence of 70 letters, only 3 more than the current record-holder, found on p. 217 of Sarah Grand's novel, The Beth Book (cited in Pearson's Pictured Puzzles and Word Play, c1910, and later in Borgmann's Language on Vacation). The Bergerson example is:

Schrodinger's bi|zarre wave mechanics rejected two basic axioms of Planck's original quantum theory|

Alas, he doesn't recall the name of the book from which this passage was lifted!

Jeff Grant mined the English Dialect Dictionary for 180 boldface entries containing the trigram FFL (see "Words Containing the FFL Trigram", May 1991). He found two in which FFL is followed by a consonant (sniffitie, sniffitie-foot), one in which the FFL is part of an internal palindrome (cuffuffle), and several that used the trigram twice (fiffle-fafflement, haffle-caffle, haffle-maffle, shiffle-shaffle, sniffle-snaffle, tiffle-taffle, whiffle-whaffle). Did you know that a bafflet is a wooden mallet for killing salmon, or that shufflemuck is a slovenly worker? He tops it off with a c1386 quote from Chaucer in the OED featuring a word starting with FFL: "The beestes and the briddes all ffledden for fere."

In Zero Redundancy! (Problem 137) in Beyond Language, Dmitri Borgmann failed to find words beginning with 47 of the 676 possible bigrams, including XV. In "Initial Bigrams" in the May 1975 Word Ways, Philip Cohen filled this hole with XVARSI (a Caucasian language), found on p. 316 of Sebeok's Current Trends in Linguistics, Vol. 1, 1963. Michael Helsem recently unearthed a second example: XVARENAH (a Zoroastrian term in Pahlavi meaning 'glory' or 'kingship'). It occurs in Eliade's History of Religious Ideas, Vol. 1, on pp. 307 and 315.

The Derbyshire Grapevine, in a discussion of Cheater's Palindromes (see the November 1990 Kickshaws), cut short an article by Peter Newby so that it read "Three examples of cheater's palindromes are My name's Emanym." Dave Morice, the originator of the concept, supposed that they must have considered each word to be an example and commented "You could appear to accomplish so much more if you referred to writing by word count. I read 122,867 works by Ernest Hemingway, called The Sun Also Rises."

In the November 1982 Kickshaws, Ed Wolpov introduced Hospital Deliti, signs that had been deliberately altered by the removal of one or more letters. In the same spirit, the editor recently saw a Mitsubishi car with its logo abbreviated to ITS B S. (And, on the same subject, Mike Morton noted that SILENCE OF THE LAMBS can be anagrammed to LAMB? HOLSTEIN FECES!)

Jeff Grant notes that POETERS (in the English Dialect Dictionary) can be added to the list derived from the STEREO base in "Shelling Peas" (Word Ways, August 1990). This lifts the total score to 130.