

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.

Ed Wolpow belatedly adds to "Words Containing the FFL Trigram" in May: NONAFFLUENT is in Webster's Ninth Collegiate, and Webster's Second allows variants on words already shown (PANTOFFLE, CURFUFFLE, MUFFLON, DOUBLE SHUFFLE). Backwords for Crosswords adds KERFUFFLE, GEFUFFLE and KEFUFFLE. Jeff Grant notes FRAFFLY is in Willard Espy's An Almanac of Words at Play (p. 46).

John Bulten amplifies Dave Morice's self-defining words in the August Kickshaws: "What is OR? Well, in 9C it says, 'the heraldic color GOLD OR YELLOW.' So OR is the mixture of the colors GOLD, OR, and YELLOW (wonder how you would mix 'or paint' if you didn't have any or paint to begin with?)."

Sir Jeremy Morse points out that QUILXOTIZING OED W3 W2 should lead the eleven-letter list in "High-Scoring Scrabble Words". This removes an anomaly in the final table; the highest-scoring eleven-letter word was worth less than the highest-scoring ten-letter word.

Ed Wolpow notes that ZOONOOZ is another palindromic journalistic title (see "Elle's Belles" in the May 1991 Kickshaws).

August errata: One should omit Y from the list of sixteen letters placed on twenty cards by Prof. Einschwein. On the last page of "Directed Word Chain Networks (Part 1)", RUBY and BABY have reverse fans of one (TUBA and GURU, respectively), and should be omitted from the list. In the penultimate Kickshaw, eXcurVate should have been written eXCurVate. And the penultimate Colloquy item refers to a Mitsubushi car.

John Bulten comments on "Ominous Worldly Maxims": "I wonder if JIMJAMS to IMAMS would be considered common enough to qualify.. Oddly, the word QAIMAQAMS repeated-bigram-deletes to IMAMS as well."

Ed Wolpow writes "The Zoo Clock [in the August Kickshaws] indicates that Peter Newby specifies '3:15 precisely' as the time (between 3:00 and 4:00) at which the 2 hands of the clock overlap. Not so. The precise time is 3/11 of the way around the clock face, expressible as 3:16 4/11 or 3:16.12 9/11 (hours, minutes, seconds). An old high school math problem I'm happy to find I can still solve."

John Bulten suggests that Schwarzkopf's kid should be named BIG MEL TY SCHWARZKOPF, and his grandson BIG MEL TY SCHWARZKOPF, JUN., using 22 letters. For real people, he proposes the twelve-letter isogram ARSHILE GORKY. With tongue firmly in cheek, he proposes the book Quartz Wogs, by J.F. Vleminckx, Ph.D., which is a full pangram. (The surname Vleminckx appears in the main section of Webster's Second.)

Ed Wolpow suggests an improvement for E in Jeff Grant's "Sesquipedalian Update" in the May **Word Ways**: ETHANOLAMINEPHOSPHOTRANSFERASE, a heading in Permuted Medical Subject Headings, printed by the National Library of Medicine.

Martin Gardner writes "Lots of wonderful stuff in the August issue.. I was particularly amused by Lederer..noting that 'phallus' in Pig Latin is Alice Faye. He forgot about her brother Art."

Elsewhere in this issue, there is a reprint of an article featuring Yreka Bakery. The earliest-known reference to this palindrome occurs in the March 1866 issue of "Our Young Folks", a juvenile monthly of the last century: "J.C.S. sends us an Enigma which is not quite worth printing, but the subject presents a curious inversion, and we preserve it. It is the name of a baker's shop in Siskiyou County, Cal. -- Yreka Bakery."

On a motor trip to Michigan, the editor was on the lookout for a pangrammatic highway, but was unable to assemble a set of official highway signs containing all the letters of the alphabet in less than two or three miles. (He had high hopes for western New York state with the geographical juxtaposition of Chautauqua and Jamestown, but Route 17 failed to cooperate.) Now that states such as Pennsylvania and Michigan are encouraging local organizations to volunteer for highway litter patrol, the possibility arises that one might find a single sign containing all the letters of the alphabet. For example, Michigan signs honoring the volunteers read ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY M.D.O.T. [name of organization] NEXT [x] MILES. Wouldn't it be nice if something like the MARQUETTE BLACK JAZZ FESTIVAL adopted a highway?

In the May 1989 **Word Ways**, Peter Newby proposed the name QWAIN for self-descriptive letter-sequences possessing the quality of the word suggested. Recently, he found an obsolete nonce word in the OED that may well be called a qwaint, occurring in the 1618 publication of Joshua Sylvester's Complete Works: "Destroyeth, Buildest; Confounds, Confirms; **Ter-Terrifies...**"