SOME CAPITAL STATES?

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With the hope of improving the quality of their lives, many folks are turning to published listings of the most desirable states in which to live. These guides use many indicators to rate locations, such as job opportunities, incidence of crime, climate, recreational facilities and access to medical care.

While these are all important factors to consider, there is one indicator which has been overlooked until now: what a state capital’s name can tell us about that state. In the belief that by anagramming a capital’s name we can learn something unique about its character, I offer several recommendations of where (or where not) to live. For example, Oregon is obviously the place for unmarried women: SALEM anagrams to MALES.

Try your hand at the following suggestions and call the moving company. If you still don’t know where to go, see Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. For homeowners only (no apartment dwellers)
2. For retired nomads
3. A place to high-hat your friends
4. Where there’s no danger from overexposure to the sun
5. For an unemployed young woman
6. Stay away from here if you’re a German submarine captain
7. For compulsive shoppers who won’t quit until after midnight
8. For botanists: the locale for a very rare (non-existent?) plant of the genus Geum at lower-than-usual elevations
9. For ornithologists: where water-filled ditches are constructed for wading birds, and mysterious turkeys are bred (2 sols)
10. For physicists: where one can experience considerable force of motion as a result of a spinning disk (but this could prove fatal to people named Thomas) (2 sols)
11. Stay away from here if you don’t want to deliquesce while lying flat on your face
12. For lovers of Greek mythology: Pythias’ sidekick lives here, but the king of Phrygia does not (2 sols)
13. Stay away from here if you want to do chemical research
14. For gamblers: where the ivories are never loaded