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 six weeks prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.*

The article on Websterian 8-squares elsewhere in this issue mandates a correction to the empirical support table in "How Many Words Support a Square?". In the table, the 8-square support was estimated to be 15285 words, but in reality this number is more like 18500 (47 8-squares found in a corpus of 29927 words). This point on the curve is far more firmly anchored than the support of 36419 based on a single 9-square; the latter should be ignored in fitting the curve. Extrapolating from a least-squares fit, the support for a 10-square is approximately 221,000 words!

In "Qhats" in the May issue, Peter Newby cites EROTIC BLACKS as a typo for ERRATIC BLOCKS. Don Hauptman , author of Cruel and Unusual Puns, responds "This is one of the classic (apocryphal) gaffes attributed to Dr. Spooner. Julian Huxley notes the tale in his 1970 autobiography. Memories. In the 1964 On Living in a Revolution, Huxley relates that it supposedly happened in Switzerland, where the Good Doctor and his handsome wife were vacationing. Returning from a long walk with her, he related that he 'went far up the valley, right out of sight of the hotel, and as we turned a corner, we found ourselves completely surrounded by erotic blacks'. Huxley is clearly skeptical, but calls this example 'a very elaborate and ridiculous one that I rather enjoy.'"

T.B. or not T.B., that is the question. Doug Hoylman enclosed a copy of the 1981-82 Maryland Official Highway Map showing that this even-letters-of-the-alphabet town does exist; it's in Prince Georges County, a mile west of Brandywine, at the intersection of Routes 5 and 373. He visited the spot, finding a small cluster of stores and houses, but no sign giving a town name. Probably the name was dropped because of its unhealthy associations.

Tom Pulliam proposes the following improvements to Howard Richler's list of longest Websterian odd-letter words: E ecossaise (for Eskimo) G gemmaceous (for gamecocks), O oogamous (for osmosis), Q qaimmaqam (for quaggas), W waesucks (for wigwams).

Murray Pearce supplies three of the four words requested by Leonard Gordon (May 1992 Kickshaws) to complete 3x3x3x3 word arrays: PUDE and WUTE are place names in Stieler's Handatlas, and LULE is an Argentine Indian tribe found in Webster's First Edition.

Don Hauptman feels that Dave Morice's BACRONYM coinage (an initialism using the last letters instead of the first, as GNNS for biG maN oN campuS) is clever but likely to muddy the waters. Bacronym has already been defined as (1) an acronym that forms an actual word, and (2) an acronym in which the phrase was specifically tailored to fit an apropos word.

In "Yeltsin" Darryl Francis asks for a more recent SAINT-LYE source. Murray Pearce observes that the Map Index of France, published by the GHQ American Expeditionary Forces in 1918, lists towns with this name in both the Aube and Loire Departments. Jeff Grant adds the transposals YETLINS (small iron pots, in OED), STEYLIN' (in quotes under **steal v1** and **v2**, in English Dialect Dictionary), and YESTLIN' (in quote under **hustle**, in EDD). For transadditions, add YETELINS, YETLINGS, and YETTLINS (all variants of **yetling**, EDD), YESTLING (see YESTLIN'), and INTYTLES (**entitles**, in OED).

The reflexigremlin strikes! In Part 1 of "In Quest of a Pangram" the self-descriptive sentence on page 3 should not have had a hyphen in "apostrophes", and the self-descriptive sentence on page 4 should have had an "en", not "and". In Part 2, "twenty-six e's" was omitted from the first example on page 75.

Leonard Gordon writes about "How Many Words Support a Square?": "I do not think 'the inexorable march of personal computer power' will find larger squares. The only way you will get 10x10 or larger squares is if you can interest a first-class professional programmer to try the problem on a main frame computer and [persuade **Word Ways** readers to] combine lists to provide him something to work with. And this includes developing plurals, etc. of Web 2 words."

John Bulten has discovered a Palm Beach Post columnist named RANDY SCHULTZ whose name consists of 12 different letters once each.

Leonard Gordon comments "In Peter Newby's defense I must say a list of 4x4 word squares doesn't show much for a computer buff's creativity." He adds that the words used to form the 4x4 squares came from the COMMON subset of his Wordperfect spellchecker, and do not include all the four-letter words stored in the machine.

Peter Newby writes "The whole purpose behind that assertion ["we pencil-and-paper practitioners...will dominate creative output"] was to inspire ... mechanised wordsmiths to acknowledge, by imitation, the originality of the Triplets-In-Parallel concept."

WHO	TOOK	MY	BAIT?
ho	too	moy	bat
o	to	mo	at
oe	o	o	a
e	oe	oo	ai
en	roe	too	i
LEN	ROSE	TO	1T!