

# 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 seven weeks prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

			S	In the August 1992 <b>Word Ways</b> , Lee Sal-
		F	I	lows presented a reflexicon (a self-
	T	I	X	descriptive word set) in a 16x14 rectan-
F O U R	H S	V		gular word interlock. Using a computer,
O	I	E	T	Leonard Gordon compacted this to 16x11
U	T H R E E	U S		as shown to the left. He comments "[Sal-
R	H T	I		lows] explains the improvement by his
	F I V E	F S		use of loops; unfortunately, he trapped
N	R E	O	T	himself in his loops. A loop saves a
S	T N	U	H	letter but costs you joinable positions.
	E	R	R	Complete your loops when they offer
	E S		E	themselves, but do not make searching
	N S	O	E	for loops central to your strategy."
O N E	X	S		
	E		V	The article "Alphabetical Patterns"
	S E V E N	R S		in the February issue challenged read-

ers to find the longest possible word in which each letter has a unique alphabetic shift (no pair of letters are the right alphabetical spacing apart, as W and Y in byWaY or E and H in bEaCh). Leonard Gordon used a computer to discover the 18-letter QUANTIFICATIONALLY, in Web 3. More amazingly, he located HUMISTRATOUS (alphabetic pattern abcdeefbfdca), a word having the supergroup pattern 222222 (letter-pairs having six different alphabetic shifts). There also exist two words, REDIVIDING and STRETCHERS, having the supergroup pattern 22222, and twelve words (in addition to WRETCHED, cited in the article) with supergroup pattern 2222.

Elsewhere in this issue, Ted Clarke uses the word **Buckleys** which may be unfamiliar to American readers. It is short for "Buckley's chance", a phrase common in the Antipodes listed in Heinemann's New Zealand Dictionary as "little or no chance at all". Clarke comments "I like to feel that my submissions not only portray my different views on, and approaches to, numerous topics, but that they also reflect nuances between our two languages."

Leonard Gordon notes that Competitive Word Squares was originated by Richard Sharp of Great Britain, and first published in Best Games People Play (1976). Called Ragaman, the game is cited in

Parlett's Beyond Boticelli (1981). It is closely related to Last Word, described by Sid Sackson in Gamut of Games (1976). Gordon also notes that Peter Newby's "back-to-front word play" (which he later called "logomotion") is essentially equivalent to Parlett's Head to Tail, also described in Beyond Boticelli.

Jeff Grant observes that SCOLOCS is in his Palindromicon, and PYNEPENY was mentioned in "Pair and Trio Isograms" in the August 1982 **Word Ways**. Sir Jeremy Morse adds that PYNEPENY, wrapped around a circle, is the only word that can be spelled in either direction starting with the **same** letter.

A careful reading by Enoch Haga of Livermore CA has discovered some arithmetical errors in "Word Square Support: Part 1". The column headed by 130 on page 184 should have 2 six-counts added (changing 3 to 5), as well as an additional seven-count and twelve-count (changing 0 to 1), leading to the correct total of 400 and the reported average of 1.02. However, the average of 1.84 in the final column is incorrect; it should be 1.92. Also, on page 185, the average in the 1680-1749 row of the table is not 1.07 but  $(14 \times 1 + 4 \times 2 + 3 \times 3 + 2 \times 4) / 41 = 0.95$ .

Pondering the FX-word AFXENTIOU, Michael Helsem came up with elFXyster, dwarfFXebec, halfFXanthic, ofFXerox and selfFXenodochial!

Leonard Gordon liked "Wordnim and Grundyword". The game of Nim, on which the first is based, gets dull in a hurry, once you memorize the winning positions; the addition of word-splitting restores the game aspect. An excellent discussion of variations and ramifications of Grundy's game can be found in T.H. O'Beirne's Puzzles and Paradoxes (Oxford, 1965); he also describes Wythoff's game which Farrell and Wright might enjoy evaluating for word-play. O'Beirne also has a general discussion of tree search and pruning strategies.

Eddie Syrratt, a friend of Ted Clarke, supplied additional proverbs on WORDS to augment "The Proverbial Word" in May:

Bare WORDS make no bargains  
Cool WORDS scale not the tongue  
Deeds are males and WORDS are females  
Fair WORDS make fools fain [pleased]  
Few WORDS are best  
Good WORDS cost nought  
Good WORDS without deeds are rushes and seeds  
Soft WORDS are best for hard arguments  
The belly is not filled with fair WORDS  
Truth needs not many WORDS  
When wine sink[s], WORDS swim  
WORDS are but sands; it's money buys lands  
WORDS are but wind, but blows unkind  
WORDS cut more than swords  
Wranglers never want WORDS

In "Base 27: The Key to a New Gematria", Lee Sallows asked for word-groups in addition to [l, am; an] that satisfy the Pythagorean Theorem. Leonard Gordon found two triads using words from the Official Scrabble Players' Dictionary: [so, tup; tut] and [er, pam; pan]. If boldface entries from Web 2 are allowed, many more are possible, including [arf, ee; arn], [ax, ee; en], [hie, ko; him], [ar, aa; az], [ab, oo; op] and [fi, ee; he]. Ian Stewart describes Sallows's gematria in the 10 Jul 1993 issue of the New Scientist.

Robert Fleissner writes "It was very timely that 'As You Like the Quem Quaeritis Trope' appeared in August, because that way I could say to readers that it honored Pope John Paul's visit to America that month". However, he doesn't understand why one (Catholic) reader found his article "incoherent".

David Woodside suggests that Justin Baker investigate a computer dictionary program called "Random House Webster's Electronic Dictionary & Thesaurus College Edition" by Reference Software International, 330 Townsend Street, Suite 119, San Francisco 94107. The software finds anagrams for any pattern of 30 or fewer characters; however, the result is always a word (not a phrase) anagram. **Word Ways** subscriber Mike Morton has privately produced an anagram-generating program as well.

Jeff Grant and Sir Jeremy Morse note that ARSENIUS (in Chambers) was omitted from the AEIOU words in "Of Vowels and Things"; Morse added ACHEILOUS, AFFECTIOUS, ANNELIDOUS and BACTERIOUS from other dictionaries. John Foster's Auckland, New Zealand address was inadvertently omitted (normally, no address signifies a pseudonym).

Readers are at best neutral on the question of Paul Maxim's article on Mallarmé's hidden wordplay. Mike Morton: "I'm never sure how seriously to take his conclusions, but if you'd like to devote a few pages to his findings once in a while, I'd vote to see that". Anthony Sebastian: "I 'found the article...to be rather tedious for a spoof. The thought of a 12-page follow-up leaves me cold". Enoch Haga: "I suggest that you publish it in 6-page parts". Michael Helsem: "I love both logology and Mallarmé but Maxim's idea is too good to be true. Saussure thought he found systematic anagrams in Vergil too. Maybe you could offer the rest as a supplement". Werner Feibel: "I cast a 'no' vote on the second and third parts of the Paul Maxim article. In my opinion, there wasn't enough in the first installment to convince me that there was anything worthwhile coming. Also, I'm very suspicious of anyone who makes it a point to trademark language used merely as terminology."

Dan Tilque writes "The practice of changing one's name to be the last person in the phone book has reached ridiculous extremes. The last entry in the '93 Queens NY white pages is 23 Zs with no first name or initial. Someone **really** wants to be last."