COLLOQUY

Lee Sallows adds to the dialogue on the use of computer programs in logology: "When are people going to realize that within a few years, using a computer in logology is going to be as mundane an event as using pencil and paper? No doubt there were ancient Egyptians who could cite schemes (for whatever) whose advantage was that they 'do not require a stylus and papyrus'. At one time, possession of a stylus and papyrus, as well as the knowledge necessary to use or program them, was presumably beyond the average citizen. But times change. Seen in perspective, one man's advantage can become a civilization's disadvantage."

Leonard Gordon comments on John M. Smith's DNA linguistic speculations: "I believe that with sufficient thought, word chains can be used as tools for teaching fundamentals of polymer chemistry. But to suggest that word chains provide clues to the reality of genetics is chutzpah in the extreme. There are good reasons why only certain proteins exist...read the Scientific American magazines of the past 50 years."

In "Words Newfound, Words Reobserved", Darryl Francis mentions VIZIANAGRAM, an Indian town. Jeff Grant has discovered four post offices named BANAGRAM in the International Post Office Register, two in India and two in Bangladesh.

Sir Jeremy Morse answers Dave Morice's call for alphabetically-ordered phrases with the response to "How do you get from ABC to the full alphabet?": ADD DEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ. In reverse, noting that ZYXT is an obsolete dialectical form of **seest** in the OED, he asserts ZXYT'S SO OLD.

Susan Thorpe adds the following to "Muses Reverse Sum" in the November Kickshaws: SIX IS ONE NO., SIX IS; ONE NINE...I.E. NINE ...NO?; TWO NOWT. The last word is a dialectical var. of **nought**.

Leonard Gordon asks "If you want every number to represent a word why not use the old spy novel method?" In Webster's 9th Collegiate, WORD occurs on page 1358 column 2 entry 3, and PLAY on page 902 column 1 entry 5. Adding these, and reducing the sum modulo the dictionary length (1390 pages, 2 columns), one obtains page 870 column 1 entry 8, which curiously is PENMAN. (In the 10th Collegiate, it comes out PERQUISITE, so one can conclude that word play is the perquisite of a penman.)

Ira Braus wonders why the authors of **Getting Your Words' Worth**, reviewed in the November Kickshaws, called word–order palindromes pseudodromes; the venerable **chiasmus** will do just fine. Chiasmus is the cross parallelism of at least two consecutive linguistic strings

such as "flowers are lovely / love is flowerlike"(Coleridge, "Youth and Age"). Modern chiasmology begins with John Forbes's **Symmetrical Study of Scripture** (Edinburgh, 1854). Newer studies are John Welch's **Chiasmus in Antiquity** (Hildesheim, 1981) and Harald Horvei's **Der Chiasmus, ein Beitrag zur Figurenlehre** (Bergen, 1981).

Sir Jeremy Morse writes "Jeff Grant's revisit to AEGINRST is timely, although there is inevitably some arbitrariness in his choice of disallowed terms and accepted terms. Would it not be better to group the transposals, and arrange the groups in descending order of acceptability (e.g. common words, rare words, dialect words, obsolete words, obsolete forms, proper nouns, pluralized proper nouns, apostrophized words, and so on)?...Could not AERTINGS, etc. be written without apostrophe as verbal nouns rather than citation forms plural?"

The editor failed to notice that Leonard Gordon's reflexicon in the November Colloquy was defective, being merely a rearrangement of the strips in Lee Sallows's reflexicon on page 138 of the August 1992 **Word Ways**, and hence not a reflexicon at all. The earlier 14x16 example is, in fact, the minimum-area one.

Enoch Haga footnotes his "On Babbage and Babbling" with this recent babble: prime words. In this form of lipogrammetry, one seeks not only those words whose letters have prime locations in the alphabet (ABCEGHKMQSW), but also sum to a prime (perfect prime words, such as KEG or SAM). Technically, A is not a prime, but it has been added to augment the vowel supply.

Jeff Grant answers Darryl Francis's query: VELOCIRAPTOR predates **Jurassic Park** as a word, as it can be found in **The Illustrated Dinosaur Encyclopedia** (1988), by Dougal Dixon. Henry Fairfield Osborn coined the genus name Velociraptor Mongoliensis for one of the specimens found during the 1924 Central Asiatic Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History.

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B A S T A
O C H A M
W H O R E
N E W E N
E R E S T
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Jeff Grant modifies the BASTA square in "Nested Word Squares" to produce a full double nested word square (all subsquares are double, down to 3x3). All but the Web 2 ASTA are in the OED.

Marius Serra i Roig comments "I'd like to state that Paul Maxim's articles on Mallarmé could be quite interesting...I would be glad of reading [a further one]."