

COLLOQUY

James A. Lundon, Digital Equipment Corporation, Ballybrit, Galway Ireland (jlundon@xstacy.enet.dec.com) offers free to Word Ways readers his crossword construction software. He states that Cword is a powerful, fully functional, portable crossword creator which employs a simple hierarchial character cell user interface and uses intuitive techniques to help the reader create sophisticated Block, Barred, American and Novelty crosswords, including grid and crossword outputting to postscript and text. The program also contains many useful word utilities including anagramming, Soundex equivalents, ROT13, template matcher, and a built-in Webster's dictionary client, if an Internet connection is available. It has been ported to many systems including OpenVMS, Ultrix, Digital Unix, HP-UX, SunOS and AIX. Full ANSI C sources are included. Complete user documentation and on-line help is provided as are design notes.

Gremlins strike again! In "A Beastly Quiz" in the May Kickshaws, NNAME is an old name for a yam, not a yak. Several readers pointed out that HYPNUM, not HYPNUUM, appears in the OED and Chambers, correcting Peter Newby's Colloquy note.

Rex Gooch thanks Harry Partridge for his support (in Colloquy) on sericon: "I now see the OED defines it as an obsolete alchemical form for a substance used in the transmutation of inferior metals into gold." Susan Thorpe notes that Leddell should be Liddell.

Jeff Grant writes "Splendid Symbolism" is good fun although some of the words are strained and fanciful. No doubt if we ran our words together we could come up with something similar, e.g. cwm-fjordbank-squiz-vext 'disturbed by looking at carved symbols found in welsh valleys and Scandinavian fjords'."

Susan Thorpe adds PastILLe, gREnaDine, eNthUsiasT, sTINGY, sCoUndRel, bltternEss, compaRtment, AdRoiTness, oVerbeArING, interRegnum and tranSgressIoN to "Of Kangaroos and Joeys" in May. Is BudweisER a joey in a brand-name kangaroo?

Rex Gooch notes that irregular numeration systems are not confined to the Sumerians and Mayans. Time is measured in steps of 60, 60 and 24, and until recently weight in steps of 16, 28, 4, 20 (ounces, pounds, quarters, cwts, tons).

Elsewhere in this issue, Dan Tilque asks for the largest k-graphable number. Leonard Gordon suggests 900,190,990 for numbers under one billion. This can be easily converted to 900,000,190,990 with the addition of a B.

M A L
D N I S
R E O U
Y T H

Chuck Fendall offers the following computer-generated solutions of four six-letter words containing 24 different letters (see Colloquy, February 1991): blowzy frumps jading kvetch, chintz fledgy jawbox skrump, delfts grumph jawbox zincky, dingly frumps jawbox kvetch, drying flumps jawbox kvetch, dwarfs jumbly kvetch poxin, fjelds pyxing wrocht zambuk, flimps grundy jawbox kvetch, frowzy jading kvetch plumbs, and grumph jawbox veldts zincky. He has searched without success for three eight-letter words containing 24 different letters.

Inspired by "Updating Gary Gray and Edna Dean" and "More Transposable Names", Jeff Grant created a large list of possible candidates. A check of PhoneDisc verified the existence of Ernest Nester (Hattiesburg MS), Karl Lark (Salt Lake City UT), Lydia Daily (St Petersburg FL), Hank Kahn (Venice CA), Leo(nard) Loe (Montague CA), Glen Leng (Ash-tabula OH), Dolly Lloyd (Pocatello ID) Nile Lien (Hoyt Lakes MN), Marion Marino (several), Lena Lean (Lamar MO), Rod(ney) Ord (Marshfield MA), and Stew(art) West (several). Andrew Bremner sent in a London Times newspaper cutting (late March 1996) mentioning Angel Negal, a well-known exhibitor at dog shows since 1939. Perhaps the most well-known bearer of such names is Neal Lane, Director of the National Science Foundation.

Ooops! The table on page 86 in "On Bey ond Zillion" should have defined mega-, giga-, tera- and peta- as the 6th, 9th, 12th and 15th powers of ten. Dan Tilque notes that three more have been proposed: exa- (18th), zetta- (21st) and yotta- (24th). He also notes that the name of his company, described in "Photon What?" is Photon (not Photo) Kinetics.

In May 1994 "King's Move Word Packing" exhibited a grid of 93 letters in which one could trace out by king's move all of the surnames of US presidents. Leonard Gordon "killed the whole day on this silly puzzle" but reduced the number of different letters to 84. Note that DOLE is available if he wins the election in November.

	P	R	T	N						4
	I	F	A	T						5
	J	E	G	L						7
	L	D	E	R	C	I	E	K		11
	I	O	R	S	E	N	F	R	O	10
	L	O	R	S	E	N	F	R	O	10
										9
										8
										8
										7
										5
V	B	C	M	A	L	I				
A	W	U	H	Y	N	O				
N	E	R	K	E	D	R				
E	J	C	S	O	E	R				
T	H	A	L	T	H	O				
H	R	I	O	G	S	U				
U	H	A	D	I	B					
	M	S	R							