

COLLOQUY

Rex Gooch writes about "Upperlands in the Netherlands" (p 167); "...pi has no place in an empirical formula, except to lend a cabbalistic air; in any case 2.8 is a better value for the facts given." (Actually, the pi-fit is quite good when the full distribution of Dutch palindromes is taken into account--63,60,72,68,27,9,2,1,1. Theory predicts 53 (for lengths 3+4), 55 (for lengths 5+6), 72,68,33,5,2,1,0 (for lengths 19+20).) He goes on to say "[Battus's formula] is difficult to understand. since 4 & 5, 6 & 7 etc are the natural pairings, in that fixing the first two letters (in the case of 4 & 5) or the first three (6 & 7) ensures a palindrome."

Richard Sabey doubts that Doug McIlroy has indeed found the commonest double word squares because of idiosyncratic ordering of words in Kucera and Francis--is ANODE commoner than EVIL or SHARP, for example?

Jeff Grant adds to the May Kickshaws by noting that BLACK-blace-plate-wlate-whate-WHITE and BLACK-blace-plate-blite-wlite-WHITE are OED minimum-length word ladders.

Rex Gooch adds CHEST-QUAKE and CORPSE-QUAKE (both OED) to Susan Thrope's Colloquy on "More Words Newfound, Words Reobserved" Other words containing AEIOUY in order? He found PARECIOUSLY in Funk & Wagnalls, and ACHEILOUSLY, ACHEIROUSLY, ARSENIOUSLY, CAVERNILOQUY and INTRATENDINOUSLY in Stedman's Medical Dictionary. Rex adds ZOAEA from the OED to the small list of five-letter words with only one consonant, that being a Z. Initial Y is not counted as a vowel, so words like YAZOO and YOUZE don't qualify. For abbaabba pattern words, he offers ALLAALLA (Hausa), ARRAARRA (US Indian tribe), OTTOOTTO (8-8 time in music), PEEPPEEP and TOOTTOOT (both OED).

Richard Sabey disagrees with the May 1997 Kickshaws allusion to the uselessness of computer anagram generators: "Even if anagram programs are of no help in making such a huge anagram, they can still help people make smaller anagrams. My view is that an anagram as long as this one [100 letters] is inelegant and insignificant in that one would expect millions of anagrams of such a big bag of letters; a good anagram of a small bag of letters is more remarkable."

Jeff Grant concedes that the pyramid word CHACHALACA in "Avian Tautonyms" is unusual, but proposes one that in his view is even more

so: THORNBILL, a bird name that beheads to another bird name, HORN-BILL.

Richard Sabey writes that the name of the Nussbaum book from which the essay in "PL8 SPEEK" was taken is itself called PL8SPK. Other stories therein are varied in nature, and only some of them are tragic. He gives a better translation for H2OUUP-2: water ("what are") you up to?. Rex Gooch wonders what sort of sugar C6HTEN05 is--"certainly not the sugar we buy, [or] glucose or fructose."

Darryl Francis offers a couple of improvements to the AEIOU problem first examined in the November 1969 Word Ways: OAUEI nonauthentic (Random House), AUIEO cauiero (16th-century var of cavalier, in the OED). He also found a transposal of SIXTEEN to add to SEXTINE: EXTINES, in Webster's Second and Third.

The Story of Ose, in the February "Fledge Ledge Edge", inspired Susan Jones of Indianapolis to create the following poems for her word-of-the-week corporate library service:

Have you met Rose, the ADIPOSE?
 Predisposed to cellulose?
 Well, Rose just chose to say adios
 To sucrose, glucose, and dextrose;
 Fries, cakes, gravy -- toutes les choses
 (Et toutes "non-non's")
 Responsible for outgrown clothes.
 Now she'll be eating Cheerios,
 With just a dose of skim lactose -- (I suppose!)

Up once more the curtain goes
 On Rose -- remember Rose?
 (Inclined to pudgy -- adipose.)
 Rose, who chose to self-diagnose,
 And dieted on Cheerios.
 You've wondered how her progress goes?
 If Rose shrinks or if she grows?
 If hunger's made her comatose?
 The answer I can now disclose:
 She's made much progress, and it shows.
 No more bursting pantyhose.
 She now has ways of filling clothes
 That prompt approving ahhs and ohhs.
 Her front door now revolves with beaus.
 Life's one big happy dos-a-dos:
 Outlook jocose; plans grandiose.
 It's blue skies, cloudless, not CIRROSE (for Rose!)

For almost a century, the minimum pangrammatic window (67 letters) has resided in Sarah Grand's *The Beth Book*. Idris Mercer of Ontario, Canada has discovered an equally-narrow window on p 24 of the 2 Oct 1996 *International Express*:

It was in this movie that two trucks carrying loads o[f liquid nitroglycerine explosive were required to make a hazardous and bumpy j]ourney through some central American country in order to douse an oil well blaze.

Richard Sabey points out one can also form placename chains in "The Chemistry of Placenames": Si(licon) AL = sial, Al(uminum) AR = alar, AR(gon) IA = aria. Dan Tilque adds that the town of Killbuck OH has the alternate name of Palladium, according to a USGS database.

Errata: Richard Sabey discovered that the Phallicdrome about Princess Di in the May issue is defective. Jeff Grant corrects a name (W.S. Ramson) and a book (Dictionary of National Products) in "Alphabetic Clusters".

Jim Puder writes "No doubt Susan Thorpe's source for avian tautonyms [May 1997] was comprehensive with regard to Latin names, but when a species of bird had more than one common name, it evidently did not list them all. In addition to the tautonymic common names which Thorpe mentioned, I've found these, all of which are listed in Webster' Third: koko, kuku, lulu, nene, ruru, titi (or tete?), torotor, wonga-wonga. And perhaps we ought not to snub the dodo just because we've exterminated it, nor the rara avis on account of its inherent scarcity."

With tongue in cheek he adds to Andrea Cantrell's February 1997 list of palindromic habitations: "A friend of mine, who claims to hail from the infernally-hot town of Truth or Consonants, New Mexico, swears that back home he used to walk to school along DVL BLVD from his home on RD RNNR DR. He also avers that in the summertime, he used to peddle inferior-grade bandannas to tourists from a stand on TCKLSH SLK CT." In Paris you might want to avoid the stress of a stroll down RUE PEUR; instead, take RUE VIVEUR--more serene, says Graham Reynolds.