

## COLLOQUY

The pangrammatic window reported in the November 1997 Colloquy, at 67 letters, does not tie the one in *The Beth Book*. Chris Cole has discovered that A. Cyril Pearson incorrectly wrote "exquisitely" for "exquisite" in both his 1907 *The Twentieth Century Standard Puzzle Book* and his 1910 *Pictured Puzzles and Word Play*. The pangrammatic window becomes only 65 letters after the LY is removed! Pearson originally reported this pangrammatic window in a column in the *Evening Standard*, sometime before it suspended publication on May 13 1905.

Jeff Grant footnotes "Anguish Languish" in November with the following story which appeared in a Scrabble newsletter compiled by Michael Vnuk of Queensland, Australia: At a tench-eating contest in Scotland (where the tench is a popular food fish), two finalists emerged--a Mr Hicks from Fife, and a Swede named Sven. During the final round, Hicks lost a tooth, thus allowing the Swede to win by consuming nine fish. The headline reporting this read ONE TOOTH FREE FOR FIFE'S HICKS, SVEN ATE NINE TENCH.

Vengrai Partha Sarathy of Austin TX submits an improved newspaper headline which uses all the letters of the alphabet, including BFGHKV omitted in the real one: BRIGHT TORY QUILTS IN NEW SEX SCANDAL AS PEEVISH PARTY SPURNS MAJOR'S FRANK SLEAZE PLEA.

Chris Cole notes that one of the Jotto solutions reported in "A New Look at the Jotto Problem" in the November 1996 *Word Ways* could be used on a Christmas card: BRECK GOWFS JAPYX QVINT ZHMUD. The one missing letter? NOEL.

Rex Gooch on Jeff Grant's "Alphabetic Clusters" in May: "I've just returned from Karalpakstan, and cannot conceive that the spelling QARA-QALPAQ [in Webster's Third] is very sensible. As for the definition as a language, if it exists it is more of a dialect of the Kazakh language. Today Russian and Uzbek are mainly spoken in Karakalpakstan." He suggests as a substitute the noncapitalized three-Q word (Hymenoxys) *quinquesquamata*, a New Mexican plant.

David Robinson noted that ANDREW WARDEN appears twice in US telephone directories ("More Transposable Names", February 1996). Darryl Francis discovered a colleague at his workplace in London who com-

mented "It wasn't my parents' intention, although I had the fact pointed out to me many years ago (whilst at school) by my English teacher."

Writes Andrew Griscom "I enjoyed Craig's wacky definitions in 'Wysi Not Wyg'. An old favorite of mine is INNUENDO--an Italian suppository."

Darryl Francis has found yet another AEGINRST transposal: SERINGAT, a botanical syringa in the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

Doug McIlroy of Etna NH updates his "Dual Cryptograms" in the August 1997 issue with an amazing tour de force: two messages consisting of eight seven-letter words:

BARRENS HOLDING GARCONS CONCEAL WALTON'S GYPPIG PINNATE  
 GRIFFON The wild barrens hide everything: fugitive waiters and a  
 thieving dog with wiry feather-combed hair  
 HILLARY MENTORS SILVERY VERVAIN; BINDERY SUCCORS CORRIDA  
 SLOGGER The First Lady fondly tends medicinal herbs which will  
 help an inept runner who's taken refuge with a Pamplona bookbinder

Susan Thorpe adds to Richard Lederer's Pseudo-Comparatives in the November Kickshaws with the following:

ARCH (part of building) ARCHER (sportsman) ARCHEST (most superior)  
 FELL (geographical) FELLER (young lad) FELLEST (cut down)  
 FOR FORER (var. further) FOREST  
 HOOK (Captain) HOOKER HOOKEST  
 MOL (var. mail, mull) MOLER (mole-catcher) MOLEST  
 MOD MODER (obs. to regulate) MODEST  
 RASH (spots) RASHER (of bacon, etc.) RASHEST  
 RANK (disease of birds) RANKER (more rancid) RANKEST (highest rank)  
 SOUND (noise) SOUNDER (herd of wild swine) SOUNDEST (most reliable)

Word Ways omitted the four recipient words in "Four Universal-Recipient Words" in the November Word Ways: SEUL, ROUSE, OUTERS, SOUREST.

Sir Jeremy Morse offers the following sets of Frame Words (alternate columns are read alphabetically up and down) as introduced in the August 1997 Kickshaws. All words can be found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

TRANQUILLY	AWAY
UNDERGOING	BREW
	DOIT
AWARD	ELKS
CREPE	LIMP
GOING	PESO
LIKEN	SCUM
MENDS	WAVE
PAPAW	

Jim Puder writes with respect to pi-mnemonics discussed in the August 1997 Word Ways "I wonder why it is that we would find such accidental correspondences between language and the value of pi to be interesting. Could it be that since pi is a fundamental mathematical constant, and thus possibly connected in a basic way to the fabric of the universe, we are inclined (half subconsciously, perhaps) to view language which is congruent to the value of pi as being somehow imbued with some sort of mystical cosmic significance? If so, we might do well to remind ourselves that while the value of pi may be fundamental to the universe, the numbers we use to represent it are only the accidental consequence of our choice of the decimal system for conducting our numerical business. In every other base number system, the value of pi is expressed by a different number, and since there is an infinite number of possible base number systems, there must also be an infinite number of different yet equally valid expressions for pi. So, unless we want to postulate that the universe has some preferred or natural base number system, I think we have to accept the fact that no particular numerical representation of pi can be thought of as possessing intrinsic significance, at least as far as nature is concerned. Of course, the English language and the decimal number system are the premier symbol systems of our culture, and chance correspondences between written English and decimal pi might therefore be expected to exert a culturally-based fascination, even if any cosmic significance is out of the question. But why should it be expectable that what are essentially meaningless coincidences would have the power to fascinate us? I suppose that this same question could be asked with regard to many forms of logology, and I don't know the answer."

Anguish Languish can also be used to distort one's name. The editor's full name sounds like ALBATROSS HECKLER, and Ross Eckler alone like RAW SZEKLER (an unsophisticated Transylvania Magyar, from Webster's Second). Lee Sallows and others know the noted Dutch logologist H. Brandt Courstius as BURNT CRUSTIUS, and Winston Churchill was named BRIMSTONE CHAPEL in an 1899 music-hall song. There must be many more Anguish Languish name-stretchers.

Jim Puder offers the following SUET + Z word to add to Nyr Indictor's "The Suet Alphabet" in the August Word Ways. Since Webster's Second identifies Zu as an evil storm god in Babylonian mythology, one can picture Zu flinging down thunderbolts, maliciously setting forests and villages ablaze--obviously these are ZU-SET fires!