

## COLLOQUY

Jeff Grant comments that "Single Letter Prefixing" in the November issue is "an interesting exercise". For words of length two, he points out that Webster's Third lists all letter plurals (AS, BS, ..., ZS). For length three, AS takes all 26 front hooks, 16 being allowed in the OSPD. Of the remaining, CAS, JAS, OAS, SAS, UAS, YAS are OED headwords, and IAS, XAS and ZAS are plurals of OED words. QAS is the plural of an Encyclopaedia Britannica word (an old Mesopotamian liquid measure). For length four, ATS lacks only IATS. UATS is the plural of UAT in the OED, as well as a variant of VAT. AT is the surname of 39 people in PhoneDisc, so one can speak of the ZATS in America. For length five, ERES generates 22 words from the OED and Webster's. It can be augmented with the surname ZERE (27 in PhoneDisc), but there is only one surname AERE in this reference, and UERE and OERE seem impossible to find!

The observation that CLINTON, GIRL and DEFEAT can be successively removed from IN FLAGRANTE DELICTO was inspired by Francis Heaney's anagram in the March 1998 Enigma. And John Connett adds another Monica palindrome: Aha, Monica, a "C" in Omaha.

Dan Tilque corrects "Reversed Placenames": Soled VA should have been Delos, and Noxid VA should be added to the article. In "Debra and Theresa Shop" the answer text should read "oat bran cereal," "she has diabetes," "she relied on her friend," "meatiest spare ribs" and "she was telling Debra". "Brocoli" was misspelled "broccoli".

Susan Thorpe augments Sir Jeremy Morse's longest alphabetically-isolated heterogram with ANTICLERGY from Webster's Second and CAPERINGLY, ESCAPINGLY, KERYGMATIC, PHLYCTENAR, PRACTIVELY, TRIVALENCY and WATERINGLY from the OED. The eleven-letter PARCEL-TYING is in Webster's Second. How about the coined WATER-PLYING?

Rex Gooch writes on "The I18N Phenomenon" that "my overall champion is s7s with over 4000 words, followed at some distance by s7e...some way behind, d7s, c7s, s6e and s5e fight it out...a little behind them p7s, s8e, and s4e mix it up between themselves, well clear of c7e, p9s, and a7s. The top dozen contain the most popular groups for words of length 6 [through] 11." Although Rex's dictionary generated "several times" the 217 words for s5r cited by Nyr, it still had far fewer words than the ones cited above.

Sir Jeremy Morse "particularly enjoyed" Dave Morice's article on interesting numbers, suggesting various improvements:

- 4 only number whose letters expressed by their alphabetic values have a highest common factor greater than one (in fact, three)
- 11 lowest trisyllabic number name (highest, twelve billion)
- 19 lowest number name starting with the last letter of its predecessor
- 19 lowest number name sharing six letters with its predecessor
- 20 lowest number name sharing three letters with its predecessor
- 46 lowest number which is a transdeletion of another (64)
- 67 lowest number which is a transposal of another (76)
- 68 lowest number which is a transaddition of another (86)
- 79 lowest number sharing nine letters with its predecessor
- 80 lowest number which exceeds the sum of the alphabetic values of its letters

Writes Ed Wolpow "The Grants' article omitted under AMNOR Nomar Garciaparra, star shortstop for the not-so-star Boston Red Sox--very popular around here but not, it seems, in New Zealand."

Mike Weepie recently sent in a pangrammatic window that substantially shortens the 65-letter one in Sarah Grand's *The Beth Book*. At the site <http://www.westword.com/bod/1998/artsentertainment/109.html>, the piece entitled *Best Jazz Band: The Emergency Broadcast Players* contains this sentence with a 56-letter window: At a recent appearance at the Knitting Factory's *Alterknit* as part of the *TeXaco New York Jazz Festival*, frequent EBP guest trumpeter *Shane End]sley* was at the drum kit. Is this as permanent as a printed example? Does it still exist if this website is later altered or removed?

Sir Jeremy Morse notes that *TIEPIN*, a 6-letter triangle in "Edge Words", can be read in both directions along all three edges. Regarding "Scrabble-Friendly Eight Squares" he says "I do not regard *ANOSMIAS* [in the first square] as an inferrable plural."

Says Rex Gooch "I stand to be corrected, but a *SCHNEIDER* is a cutter, [and] for sure a chess player is *SCHACH SPIELER*, not *SCHACHT* (=shaft) *SCHNABLE* (=bill,beak). Of course, the personal names could be corrupt versions."

Regarding "When in Rome, Make a Joke," Mahoun al Rowsky writes "I didn't get 'Un de trois cats sank'. If you gotta let the gas outa the bag (& ruin a good joke by explaining it) tread warily, else you'll slip up & find the yolk's on you. All white?"