

## ART XTRA

A. ROSS ECKLER

Morristown, New Jersey

Daniel McGrath writes "Exxon is one of my favorite words. It occurred to me this morning the question of whether there is any way that you could create a palindrome containing that word..."

One can, in fact, construct such a palindrome, but it requires a bit of explanation. My daughter Susan's dental hygienist has the given name Xenia. Let us suppose that Xenia is talented in art. Her mother, noting that Exxon is sponsoring a competition for the best drawing of a certain barnyard animal, exhorts her to enter:

**DRAW AN OX, XENIA--GAIN EXXON AWARD!**

Actually, this is not the first Exxon palindrome. Some years ago, John E. Connett of Minneapolis described the activities of an exceptionally well-trained ox:

**AH, AN OX XEROXES SENILE FELINES, SEX OR EXXON (AHA!)**

Since it is not easy to persuade even a senile feline to be photocopied, one is well-advised to substitute SUSSEX for SENILE FELINES, SEX!

How about a palindrome with even more X's? Connett abandons Exxon to reach the eight-X plateau:

Lana, I'm a gal--I am!  
 Ron, amoral,  
 Lifts a fax of Taft.  
 A fax I fix, of a fox--  
 A fax of a fox I fix--  
 A fat, fat, fox!  
 A fast-fill aroma, Norma--  
 I lag--am I anal?