

## COLLOQUY

Anil writes “The February issue was unusually rich, mainly because of Mike Keith’s awesome feat [“A Magical Pair of 6x6 Chemical Squares”]. But surely a bit lucky that such exact triple fits were possible. I read about part of this achievement on the Internet when it was only 30 v. 30 elements and only the atomic numbers added up. For the alphanumeric values to add up as well and on even more elements staggers my imagination. Has anyone tried this on longish double lists of presidents or states?...I would quibble with one aspect of Mike’s article. They aren’t word *or* magic squares in the usual sense, merely two lists which not only needn’t be squarely arrayed [but] don’t even have to have the same number of items. (The original 30 v. 30 was not a square.) So his remark about 7x7 squares being the next largest is misleading...I am nevertheless very impressed with Mike’s concept, even more so with his daring to think such a result possible in the first place.”

In “Vowel Tetragrams Revisited” in Nov 2003, Susan Thorpe inadvertently doubled an example for OOUO and UOUO, but omitted OOUUJ and UOUU. The latter can be filled with Motuouu, a peninsula in French Polynesia. The entry for AUOE should be replaced with Sauoen, an island in Norway.

Don Hauptman was fascinated by “Fictitious Names”; such names have long an obsession of his. In the early 1960s Mad Magazine ran an article pairing invented names with apposite occupations. I recall Justin Case, Walter Wall and of course Lois D. Nominator (later Lois Carmen Denominator). There have been strippers named Sybil Rights and Rachel Equality. In the TV show The Simpsons, a running gag involves Bart calling Moe’s Bar and asking for people such as Amanda Huginkiss to be paged. I have one of the official Simpsons books containing a long list of the names used. Finally, there’s the ever-popular Mike Hunt.

Anil’s article “Few say So” omitted two examples that he later sent to the editor: Suit yourself (Shoot yourself) and Too right (Two right). “Too right” is an Oz idiom meaning “true”, and “two right” means take two right turns—go away.

Susan Thorpe says “There appears to be an escalating tendency in Word Ways for contributors to try to fill gaps or add to lists by using designations (especially phrases) which do not abide by the parameters used by the authors of the original articles. If appropriate entries [ones adhering to the criteria established in the original article] can’t be found, it is better to leave gaps than strain to fill them with [these nonconforming examples].” Of course, relaxed criteria can be used in a follow-on article on the same topic.

Darryl Francis notes that Jeff Grant’s Word Ways articles of February and May 1994 pulled together all the AEGINRST transposals known at that time. Since then additional transposals have been added sporadically. The latest comes to us courtesy of CollinsEnglish Dictionary, 6th edition 2003, published by HarperCollins of Glasgow. The dictionary has as a main entry **angsty**, meaning “displaying or feeling angst”. The comparative form is displayed as **angstier**.