Webster's Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections, and comments about earlier articles appearing in Word Ways. Comments received up to a month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

In the February 1978 Kickshaws, Jeff Grant presented a 5-by-5 word square containing 21 different letters. Amazingly, he has been able to upgrade this to 22 (all words in the OED or its Supplement):

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W H I C K  which  to squeak, like a pig
R O B Y N  robyn  14th-15th century spelling of 'robin'
A F I V E  a-five in five (parts)
M U Z E D  mused  past tense of 'muse', an early form of 'muse'
P L A T S  plats  plans or diagrams
G W I C K  wramp  a twist or strain
R O B Y N  hoful  an old word meaning 'careful'
A F I V E  ibiza  a breed of dog found on Ibiza
M U Z E D  cyvet  17th century spelling of 'civet'
P L A T S  kneds  an early dialectic form of 'kneads'
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In the variant square, 'gwick', the sound made in swallowing, comes from the English Dialect Dictionary.

Richard Lederer continues to find additions to his "Orthograffiti" in the November 1978 Word Ways:

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EE II genii, A bologna, A GH shillelagh, AH shillelah, IG vignette
SH SS assure
OO OEU manoeuvre, EOU Seoul
OH EOU Seoul
AY CHUY schuyt, ETE ete a ete, UA menstruation, EII Pompeii
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The count now stands at 34 AY sounds, 33 OH sounds, and 31 EE sounds. He also offers a correction of Dmitri Borgmann's sentence illustrating the various spellings of the short I sound: Has-been women gymnasts in Tientsin busily build pretty, counterfeit marriage cottages. This adds three spellings (underlined) and eliminates the duplication of 'English' and 'in' in the original.

Edward Wolpow offers four improvements to "Monoconsonantal Words": Bouabaio, N nonunion, T autoette and Myamamai (if Y assumed vowel).
Philip Cohen responds to Frederick Crane: "Why are Bwlch and Llwchwr vowelless? Because we are not dealing with phonology, we are doing logology, which in general means letter patterns... I think it's valid when doing English (as opposed to Welsh) logology to use the standard written-English definition (of a vowel), 'AEIOU and sometimes Y'. Better Llwchwr than inventions such as Joe Btspik or onomatopoea such as shhhhhh."

On the other hand, commenting on what constitutes a vowel in vowel-consonant pattern words, Jeremy Morse writes "it is surely wrong, rather than purist, to disallow vocalic Y - or vocalic W in Welsh words." No doubt he would reject the plural of Annwfn (in Welsh legend, an elysium in the form of a revolving sea-girt castle), suggested by Tom Pulliam as a vcccc word.

In his April 1979 Scientific American column, Martin Gardner reports that poet George Starbuck coined the ten-letter single-syllable word 'schnappsed', but was topped by William Harmon's "Schnappsed can't be beat. I realized this while being broughammed to the airport!" And in the Logodaedalus section of the English journal Logophile (reviewed elsewhere in this issue) dated December 1978, two readers improved on the consecutive-letter records:

The children's answers were incorrect except for Bess's "SS's S's stand for Schutzstaffel". (9 Ss)

In a chess game, one player was superstitious about castling queen's side; because of his failure to play the move that was taboo, 0-0-0, oozing away of his potential advantage was inevitable. (7 Os)

Numerous additions and improvements were received for "Word Ways Challenges (Part I)" from Jeremy Morse, Edward Wolpow and Tom Pulliam. Summarizing by section:

Letters, Bigrams, Trigrams: a 4-J (hyphenated) example previously given in Word Ways is 'jejuno-jejunostomy' (JM, EW). 5 Hs are in the OED 'high-churchmanship', and 5 Ps in 'puppet-promter' (JM). An alternating monotony with 4 Ns is 'nonunanimous' (EW); a Hawaiian-language example with 6 As is 'onahanahaiua', and one with 4 Ls is 'lololohua' (TP). The three-letter set QOW is found in 'deflexionization' and 'benzofuroquinoxaline', all in Webster's Second (TP).

Alphabetic Letter Order: 'Nonsupports' is a longer word from the last half of the alphabet (EW, JM). The longest-known word with total alphabetic disorder (no matches between letters of the word and the same letters rearranged alphabetically) is 'trinitrophenylmethylnitramine' (EW); if the word must also be an isogram, the non-Websterian 'benzhydroxamic' (EW) exceeds 'copyrightable' (JM).
Transdeletions, Transadditions: If the verb 'ultimatum' in the OED can take an -ing, this is a transaddition for 'aluminium' (JM). Better one-step transadditions for 'helium' and 'indium' are 'humble' and 'diminue', respectively (TP). 'Bepester' is a transdeletion of 'September' (TP). For Thursday, the OED gives 'hay-dust' or 'draughts' as one-step transdeletions, and 'thesaury' as a para-trans-position (JM). A US town name transaddition for 'fourteen' is 'Fountain Green', in Utah (EW). Transadditions for 27 of the 28 missing states have been found (EW); only SD is lacking, but ND uses a non-Websterian word and NH uses a coinedage.

Word Stairs: An article by Tom Pulliam can be found in this issue.

Lexemes: NI lexemes containing isolated letters must have words on both sides; lexemes beginning or ending with isolated letters are known for all letters of the alphabet. 82 is found in lightface type in 'actinium B (82)' under 'actinium' in Webster's Second (TP).

Word Squares: The 2-by-n word square DENOMINATIONALISM can be extended to 17, using words in ANISOLEUCOCYTOSIS Webster's Second or Third (TP).

Vowels and Consonants: For the missing vvvvccc, OED has 'eyeing' from which 'eyeings' can be inferred; also, OED has 'eye-ends' (JM). For the vocalic ordering IUEOA, the OED gives pIctUrEboard, and if lexemes are allowed, IAEUO yields villAgEbUrrOw (JM).

Richard Lederer offers the following three improvements in his "Compounds Compounded" matrix in the February issue: 'sidesaddle' for 'weekend', 'whereabouts' for 'wherefore', and 'outsamart' for 'atone'. Philip Cohen asserts that 'punchdrunk' is not an adverb in 'He left the ring punchdrunk' but an adjective in apposition.

Corrections: In the February Colloquy, an outdated address was given for Dora Newhouse's Encyclopedia of Homonyms; the correct one is PO Box 76145, Los Angeles, CA 90076 (price $14.95). The crossword frequency for E in "Crossword Puzzle Letter Frequencies" is 0.1602, not 0.1519.
Leroy Meyers wonders if any reader has seen the word 'neutron' (for chemical element 0) in any source other than Hackh's Chemical Dictionary (cited in "Elementary Transpositions" in May 1978). He is familiar with 'neutronium', used in science fiction stories, but has not seen this word used in scientific literature either.

Jeff Grant gives 'ottetto' and 'gigigi' as improved (longer) examples in his list of "Palindrome Words" in the OED in the November 1978 issue. He has compiled an unpublished list of more than one thousand palindromic words from the OED and other dictionary sources.

Philip Cohen has discovered perhaps the finest self-contradictory term yet: 'antepost', a bet placed before the racers' numbers are posted.

Responding to Margaret Weiss's query in Kickshaws, Maxey Brooke notes that words such as 'ept' and 'dolent' were christened unnegatives by Dave Silverman in the August 1969 Kickshaws. As for Spanish borrowings, he wonders how Donald Morris overlooked dozens of naturalized examples like parade, platinum, vigilante, guerrilla, quixotic, quadroon, corral, castanet. Philip Cohen points out that we'd have a lot more Spanish borrowings if the Armada had been successful.

David Russell Williams takes exception to the Furness rule on the use of -able and -ible reported in Kickshaws (if it's a word when -able/-ible is removed, use -able; otherwise use -ible). He cites numerous exceptions to both halves of this rule (addible, affectible, conductible, ...; eradicable, impeccable, indescribable, ...; and refers the reader to the discussion on p. 5 of Webster's Second. As for those -yze words, Ralph Beaman writes "Even my 7th Collegiate gives 'catyze', 'hydrol yze' and 'pyrolyze' and -mise words can be augmented by 'promise' and 'chemise', among others. Back to the drawing board, Edna!

In "Onomasticon II" Tom Pulliam believes that George Scheetz overlooked the Webster Second words 'discide' (divide, sever), 'recide' (relapse; subside) and 'precide' (to cut off). Harry Partridge adds that 'muricide' means 'mouse killer', and is used as a term of opprobrium in Plautus (see Freund's Latin Dictionary).

In "Twice in Fivers", Tom Pulliam suggests pFiF (Webster's Second) for aFiF, and adds enFeF (Webster's Second) and HHeth (Webster's Third). Finally, for biIak, substitute pIIng (Webster's Third).

Jeremy Morse suggests 'iron-grey' as a generic name for a horse starting with I in "A Horse of Another Color" in the November 1978 issue, analogous to the word 'roan.'