FOUR ANAGRAM CHALLENGES

HEARST SILL ROGERS


HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

The longest of the four phrases, this is made somewhat difficult by the rare letters V and W, and especially by the three Ms. LE wrote 'In musky cave with tan RomeiO, MP' -- archeology makes for strange bedfellows indeed! DS spent his time in a more conventional manner 'Very hot out, I swim in men's camp'. (Ideally, there should be no words repeated in the rearrangement, but 'I' seems unavoidable.)

CORPORALS AND SERGEANTS

I like best JM's evocative 'Stronger class on parade' and EW's 'Sad crop: no-star generals.' DS's 'Scan troops, learn grades' shifts from a noun-based to a verb-based anagram, but does manage to employ two quite relevant long words. LE has a similar verb-based treatment 'Anneal, sort corps grades.'

HE WHO HESITATES IS LOST

This, probably the most recalcitrant phrase of the lot, is only 20 letters long and uses a W and three Hs. Only two people attempted it; unfortunately, DS omitted the letter H in 'Oh, I see sloths waste it.' EW employed a specific example of dilatoriness 'Hi! Hi! Swoosh tsetse ... late.' I offer 'Oh -- sit? I see who's the last' which escapes the re-use of two words in the original only by melding them into the apostrophized 'who's.'

COMPUTER SCIENTISTS

Although short, this phrase attracted the most interest. LE made use of computer acronyms (Management Information System, Central Processing Unit, Cathode Ray Tube) in 'Most entice Cats. I sup!', 'Mount Cats, sit, see pic' and 'Entice CPUs; trot MIs'. EW suggested 'Sect sit, count primes' and DS added 'Cuss time, introspect' and the less-than-apposite 'Must cite inspectors.' However, AS provided the most elaborate set of changes on this theme. Assisted by colleagues Patrick computer attach mutations, resu...
tested four short

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sisted by

colleagues Patricia Douglass and Susan Yarbrough, he used a micro-

computer attached to a video display to evaluate trial-and-error per-

mutations, resulting in the following 'poem':

o, suspect strict mien

specimen: stoic, struts

sci-corps, its net mute

men, set circuits, stop

optic screen must sit

pics seem to instruct

must respect its icon

success! time to print

must to sciences trip

i.e., must stir concepts

nuttiest sci-corps, 'em

cosmic nuts, pi street

spit out eccentricisms

to cpu's ministers, etc.

success! trip to it, men

The most felicitous lines are 'pics seem to instruct' and 'spit out eccen-
tricisms'.

JG notes that the attitude of many people toward computer scientists
has gone from 'scepticism to unrest'.

HUMOR-AND-METAPHOR CONFERENCE

The second conference on linguistic humor will be held at the
Phoenix Hilton Hotel from March 30 to April 2, 1983. The key-
note speakers will probably include Reinhold Aman (Maledicta),
George Lakoff (California linguist), Ric Masten (California poet)
Allen Walker Read (New York linguist), Susan Kelz Sperling
(New York author), and Larry Wilde (California author). Propo-
sals on any aspect of humorous metaphor will be accepted on
a space-available basis. For further information, contact Don
Nilsen, English Department, Arizona State University, Tempe
AZ 85287.