Anagramming presidential names - rearranging their letters into other words, hopefully bearing some relation to the individual - has been a word pastime for many generations; the February 1977 issue of *Word Ways* summarizes the best (that is, the most apropos) anagrams for all the presidents from Washington through Carter. However, it is likely that no US president has a more readily anagrammable name than RONALD WILSON REAGAN - eighteen letters well-distributed between seven vowels and eleven consonants, with W the only unusual letter. A large number of his predecessors are saddled with the rare letters J, Z, V or X; among those who are not, GEORGE WASHINGTON has three Gs, and THOMAS WOODROW WILSON, three Ws.

A computer was programmed to generate word-lists exactly using the letters AAADEGILLNNNOORRSW. Hundreds of thousands were produced, from which 241 were hand-selected. (Two other anagrams, identified by asterisks, were gleaned from other sources.) Many of the anagrams in this corpus are presented below.

As already noted, anagrams are supposed to bear some relation to their subjects; however, in this collection few have much relevance to Reagan. The leading candidate is certainly NO, DARLINGS, NO ERA LAW. Also meritorious are NO, A DARLING LASER NOW, referring presumably to the recent Star Wars ICBM defense proposals, and A WAR ON SOLAR LENDING, referring to his suppression of the Solar Bank. (In the August 1982 *Word Ways*, the anagram L GROAN, SON: END ALL WAR was exhibited, and Harry Hazard of the National Puzzlers' League did OLD AGE RAN, RAN for RONALD REAGAN in the June 1980 Enigma.) One fervently hopes that LAND WAR GLORIES ANON and A DOLLAR GROWN INSANE, referring respectively to international and domestic disaster, are not prophetic. Perhaps it is fortunate that OIL appears only twice in the corpus, and GASOLINE once.

REDAWWAN AN OIL SLOGAN NARROW GASOLINE LAND
ARRANGE LAND, SNOW, OIL

Still, there is much anagrammatic concern with IRAN; with 12 occurrences (plus one IRAN'S), this troubled country leads all other geographic references - nations ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ENGLAND, LAOS, and ISRAEL, cities LONDON, LENINGRAD, OSLO and SAIGON, the SIERRAs, and adjectives ASIAN and NORWEGIAN(S). A few Iranian anagrams seem eerily logical:

MIKE MORTON
Hanover, New Hampshire
A. ROSS ECKLER
Morristown, New Jersey

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Angola is the second most anagrammed country, with ten:

- **SNARE WORLD IN ANGOLA**
- **ANGOLA AS INNER WORLD**
- **ANGOLA, A WORLD SINNER**
- **ANGOLA WARNS RED LION**
- **I SLANDER WORN ANGOLA**

All in all, not a very complimentary view of this African nation. Actually, the three **ISRAEL** anagrams achieve a greater appositeness:

- **ISRAEL ON A WRONG LAND**
- **ISRAEL WON GRAND LOAN**

The third anagram could refer to Israel’s trauma in the wake of the 1982 Beirut massacre, or the failure of the invasion to create a pro-western Lebanon.

Among the geographical anagrams, five incorporate two place-names, and one even manages three:

- **LENINGRAD WAR ON LAOS**
- **LENINGRAD WARN LAOS**
- **LENINGRAD, LAOS**

Does the last anagram refer to Olympic racing shell competitions, or a three-way dispute?

Curiously, animals and birds frequently inhabit these anagrams. The commonest animal is the mythical **DRAGON**, twice associated with Iran:

- **O, ANSWER AN ILL DRAGON**
- **IRAN, A SWOLLEN DRAGON**
- **IRAN: SLOW LANE DRAGON**
- **ALIEN DRAGON RAN SLOW**

The commonest real animal is the **LION**, the king of beasts:

- **GRAND ARENA, SLOW LION**
- **GNARLED LION, OR A SWAN**

Note the juxtaposition of lions and birds in two phrases. The first anagram must refer to the ancient Coliseum spectacle of lions attacking Christian martyrs. Other animals include:

- **RAN NEAR SALLOW DINGO**
- **A SWOLLEN DOG RAN IRAN**
- **A ROLL ON A GRAND SWINE**

Is Iran an animalistic country? Turning to birds, we have, besides the previously-mentioned swan and owls:

- **ARRANGED NO SLAIN OWL**
- **DARING LOON, REAL SWAN**

To complete the list:

- **ALL WRONG, A NARROW**
- **ISRAEL ON A WRONG LAND**
- **ISRAEL WON GRAND LOAN**
- **LENINGRAD WAR ON LAOS**
- **LENINGRAD WARN LAOS**
- **LENINGRAD, LAOS**

The most anagrammed country is **SNARE WORLD**, with ten:

- **SNARE WORLD IN ANGOLA**
- **ANGOLA AS INNER WORLD**
- **ANGOLA, A WORLD SINNER**
- **ANGOLA WARNS RED LION**
- **I SLANDER WORN ANGOLA**

There are several variations, including:

- **NOW NIL A NARROW**
- **A LONG, NEW, WANE**

and the solar WANE/WARN:

- **NOR CLEAN**
- **NOR CLEAN**

It is not sur long and financial:

- **OWN A GRAN**
- **GRIND SOLAR**
- **WANDERING OR A SWAN**
- **WARNING OR A SWAN**

Perhaps the most perplexing anagram is:

- **I RAN DOW GLARE DOW GLARE DOW**
- **1 RAN DOW GLARE DOW GLARE DOW**

Minor variations:

- **NOW, ON = N**
- **NOW, ON = N**

The next currences, p
To complete the bestiary, we note:

**ALL WRONG ON A SARDINE**  **DROWN ON A LARGE SNAIL**

The most frequently used word is SOLAR, appearing in 45 anagrams. A study of this corpus reveals how anagrams are often only minor variations on a theme. Several major themes can be identified, including the underlying nuclear reactions:

**NOW NIL A SOLAR DANGER**  **SOLAR LAW IN NO DANGER**

the sun’s ultimate fate

**A LONG, NEW SOLAR NADIR**  **WANE ON, DARLING SOLAR**

and the solar wind (charged particles emitted from the sun, detectable in the earth’s vicinity):

**NOR GLEAN A SOLAR WIND**  **O, ANGEL RAN SOLAR WIND**

It is not surprising to relate the sun to the dawn:

**NO GLARE IN SOLAR DAWN**  **LAG, O INNER SOLAR DAWN**

but it is surprising to see the sun associated with Leningrad

**OWN A GRAND SOLAR LIEN**  **A SOLAR LENINGRAD NOW**

and financial deals:

**OWN A GRAND SOLAR LIEN**  **A SOLAR LENINGRAD NOW**

The concept of owning (or annoying?) solar real estate is odd indeed:

**I OWN SOLAR RANGELAND**  **NOW DRAG A SOLAR LINEN**

**REGAIN SOLAR LAND NOW**  **SOLAR LAD GROWN INANE**

**GAIN SOLAR LANDOWNER**  **I RAN DOWN SOLAR ANGEL**

**I NAG SOLAR LANDOWNER**  **GLARE DOWN A SOLAR INN**

A handful of solar anagrams draw really strange pictures:

**SOLAR NON-AID WRANGLE**  **DROWN LEAN SOLAR GAIN**

**NOW DRAG A SOLAR LINEN**  **DROWNING A SOLAR LANE**

**SOLAR LAD GROWN INANE**  **DRAWING ON SOLAR ELAN**

**I RAN DOWN SOLAR ANGEL**  **GALA SOLAR DINNER NOW**

Minor variations on the solar anagrams are possible (ANEW = A NEW, ON = NO, OWN = NOW = WON, ELAN = LANE).

The next most common word in the corpus is WAR, with 23 occurrences, plus one WARS. (If Reagan had another S and a T in...
his name, one could convert SOLAR WAR to STAR WARS.) Land wars are planned
NEARING SOLO LAND WAR LAND WAR GLORIES ANON
as well as midday ones:
GILD ARSENAL, NOON WAR GRAND ALLIES, NOON WAR
A number of cities and countries are associated with conflict:
IRAN'S GOLDEN LOAN WAR ANGOLA SOLD INNER WAR
LENINGRAD WAR ON LAOS LINGER AS A LONDON WAR
LENINGRAD SALOON WAR LONDON SIREN: GALA WAR
Yet, war is not always glorified:
I'D LEARN NO WAR SLOGAN NO RALLIES ON DANG WAR
In fact, it is sometimes denied:
NO SLAIN NEGRO WAR LAD GO SNARL DENIAL "NO WAR!"
But, there are those who concede its inevitability: AGE, WAR AND SIN ROLL ON. Concluding this survey of war, most people would agree with the sentiment embodied in WAR ON ALL GRAND NOISE.
Not only is war common, but there are many other words associated with conflict and violence. Few would suspect that ARSENAL is the fifth commonest word in the corpus with 15 occurrences (LOAN has 16, and LAND, 21). Gold (or gilding) wins out over iron three to one as an arsenal cache:
GILD ARSENAL, NOON WAR GOLD ARSENAL WON IRAN
1 WARN, NO GOLD ARSENAL GNARW OLD IRON ARSENAL
Some images are vivid, if nonsensical; at least four anagrams an-thromorphize an arsenal:
1, AN ARSENAL GROWN OLD DROWN OLGA IN ARSENAL
NOW, O DARLING ARSENAL ARSENAL AN IDIOT? WRONG
WOOL IN GRAND ARSENAL GROW, O INLAND ARSENAL
There are four WARLORDs:
INANE WARLORD SLOGAN SIGNAL A NEON WARLORD
GAIN SOLAR WARLORD INSANE ANGLO WARLORD*
Finally, there are eight SLAINs plus one SLEW:
LEARN NOW, O SLAIN GRAD SLAIN ANGEL WON ARDOR
GO LEND AN ARROW, SLAIN NO SLAIN NEGRO WAR LAD
LORD SLAIN; WAGER ANON WRONG LOAN SLAIN, DEAR
NO GRAND ERA, SLAIN LOW ARRANGED NO SLAIN OWL
ROARING LANA SLEW DON
Were the victims of all this mayhem able, perhaps, to SOAR IN AN ANGEL WORLD? Or did the perpetrator confess 1 ERR; AND GAL­LOWS ANON? Besides the above example, arrows are used in:
I LAND ON ANGEL’S ARROW
LEND ASIAN LONG ARROW

Two anagrams use the word GLARE, one GROWL, four SLANDER, one WRANGLE, seven SNARL (plus two SNARLING) — truly, a contentious set!

Love, the antithesis to war, gets short shrift — EROS appears only in one slightly risqué setting, DARLING, ANAL EROS NOW. Along the same lines, one finds:

LEWD SLOGAN RAN ON AIR
A SWELLING ARDOR, ANON
SINGLE ANAL ARDOR NOW
ORGIES DRAWN ALL ANON

One can hardly imagine five anagrams less appropriate for Ronald Wilson Reagan:

Anagrams that use up the 18 letters in only three words are sufficiently noteworthy to record below (with the word-lengths):

6,6,6 NARROW SLOGAN DENIAL
5,5,8 ARRANGED ONION WALLS
5,6,7 SOLAR NON-AID WRANGLE
4,5,9 NARROWING LOAN DEALS
4,7,7 GORILLA WANDERS ANON
ANDURRA — NINE GALLows
5,6,7 LOANED SOLAR WARNING
NARROWING LADE N LAOS
LONDON WARNS ALGERIA
NARROWING LANDOWNER
GAIN SOLAR LANDOWNER
WANDERING SOLAR LOAN
INSANE ANGLO WARLORD* 3,6,9 LENDINGRAD SALOON WAR
ALL REASON A-DROWNING
4,5,9 AWARDING LONER’S LOAN
NONREAL WORLDS AGAIN
3,4,11 LONG NON-SALARIED WAR
IRAN: ALL-NEW DRAGONS
NARROW GASOLINE LAND

These anagrams, like most, have an artificial air; it is difficult to imagine finding ones like DOWAGER LOANS RAN NIL or A RAW, SNARLING NOODLE occurring naturally in running text. Our nominee for the most natural anagram in the corpus has already been mentioned twice: LONDON WARNS ALGERIA.

QUERY

Most mnemonics are sentences constructed of words whose initial letters are the same as those of the words to be memorized. Surely, more compact schemes can be devised. For example, I propose that the odd-numbered letters in a sentence match the initials of the words. To show how this works, consider the following list of US Presidents from Washington to Reagan:

What. JiM, sMeAr JoVe? HoT sPiT! iF aPt, BiLl, JoG a HuGe ArC. cHeCk My RaTs. We HoCk HeRe ThE ski, JaN; i FaCe Ron ...

Can anyone improve on this? Or perhaps the reverse list is better to use?