MARY was not using any
in the spirit of
she was
lto, Califor­
A pangram is a sentence of any length containing every letter
Obviously the ultimate achievement in this field
over the years seem to have the same problem; they are in some
way an abbreviation. For example:

Use of initials: V.D. Bug left Z.Q. Jaw my rock sphinx
Contrived headline: Quartz glyph job vex’d cwm finks
Description: Veldt jynx grimp waqf zho buck

This last specimen is the one currently cited in the Guinness Book
under 'Shortest Pangram.' It describes the situa-

1. The description is abbreviated; in full it would be 'a/the veldt jynx grimp a/the waqf zho buck.'
2. The verb grimp, meaning 'to climb or clamber,' is intransitive (OED, Webster’s Second, Webster’s Third). Therefore the jynx could conceivably grimp, but it couldn’t grimp some-
3. The zho is a hybrid bovine animal, bred from a yak bull and a common cow (OED). The male zho is a bull, not a
4. It is highly improbable, some would say impossible, that a North Indian zho would ever be grazing on a waqf (sacred Islamic land), with a South African veldt jynx climbing up its side.

The challenge now would appear to be the compilation of 26-letter pangrams which make reasonable sense, and are not abbreviated in any way. Here is an example to get the ball rolling:

Zab, thy crowdx vex jimp Qung folk
This is a mid-concert aside informing the head musician, Zab, that the odd sound of his touring group’s ancient Celtic instruments is troubl/ing the audience of slim South African bushmen. The state-
ment is not abbreviated; an analogy would be something like ‘John, your violins trouble poor Bantu people.’ Zab is an English form of the masculine given name Zabdiel (What to Name the Baby, Eve-
226

lyn Wells), crwds (variant of crowds) are ancient Celtic stringed instruments (Shorter OED), jimp means slender, slim (Shorter OED), and the Qung are a Southern African people of the Omatako River (Webster’s Third).

MORE OMNI GAMES

In the February 1984 Word Ways review of Scot Morris’s Omni Games, I wrote “let’s hope that this [book] is the start of a long series”. This wish is on its way to fulfillment with his The Next Book of Omni Games (New American Library paperback, 1988; $8.95), an anthology of 39 more monthly columns in Omni magazine. These are reminiscent of Martin Gardner’s mathematical recreations in Scientific American magazine in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Although technically less daunting, they cover an extremely wide variety of topics: flying kites, spinning toys, impossible constructions, a parlour game to inflict on a Male Chauvinist Pig, dice stunts, and modern folklore (such as the cement-mixer driver who dumps a truckload in his wife’s lover’s Cadillac). Scot Morris characterizes the book as “mental diversion or cerebral wordplay that is intellectually satisfying without being terribly serious”.

Logology appears as a major topic in many places: a description of Dmitri Borgmann’s achievements; a quiz on the meanings of specialized words such as tragus and vamp; a quiz on pronunciation; Huff’s homonym wheel classifying the difference between two words in spelling, pronunciation, or meaning; a quiz on words relating to words; the search for the perfect pun; a 5-by-5-by-5 word cube with clues in verse; polyphonic ciphering (coding using the telephone dial). There is even a light-hearted Megameaning Quiz reminiscent of Philip Cohen’s metric prefixes in the August Word Ways: 1,000,000 mouthwashes = 1 microScope; 1 word = 1 millipicture; lava­tory = 1 demijohn.

B I E N A P I

RICHARD LEDIT, Concord, New Hampshire

Long-time frequent beholder, as "I resonated the greater platitudes..." was heard to come out of the audience!

At the inn, the governor of the state at this millstone, Thomas Starr King, read his book The Whirlwind.

When people we call the appropriate”, Richard Shep prop was "and in her use of this world arrangement of her niece, we the Nile," to acquire a knowl­edge.

It has been the stage, bringing malaprops.

Adroitness adroitness a tock," "we could were singing," "they've decided active!"

Now that to close my the genre, a chasm of all French roots, propisms.

For instance, a beneficiary...