threw down the 1995, "Alphabet none known. At­
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JAN ANDERSON
New York, New York

As a new contributor I have to admit I got here by turnip truck
(three decades of serious writing). But then I saw Word Ways, and the
tail gate opened. Also the flood gate. With such endless wordplay
possibilities, can even the veterans remember all the moves? And
newcomers certainly need an introduction.

1 UNIVOCALS:

So long, old "a,e,i,y,u!"
Mustn't put a,e,i,o,y.
If it's with "a,e,i,o,y,0."
Best reg the "y,a,o,i,0.
Sly try by e,i,o,u,a."
Can't want an "i,o,u,y,e."
Ascetic, stoutly de-iouya!
My, but nothing's left, ta-t....

2 UNIGENDER: In the Beginning, God created Personkind...Neither this
nor that created It them. No, "son's" not right' it has gender. So It
created Upwardly-Mobile Mammalkind. No, "kind's" not right: cattle are
that, and we often aren't. So It created Husapieny. No, "sapient's" not
right: we usually aren't that either but lots of cattle are. So, It created
Two-Footed Opposing-Thumbs Vertically-Spined Bi-Cerebral-Hemisphered
Verbally-Communicative Creaturehood. Wait, that's Creationism. Man! I'd
better skip it.

3 LIPO-NYMORHYMES: A. Ross Eckler almost did Mary Had A Little Lamb
to the point where it couldn't be done any more, each time with a
different vowel removed (that's a lipogram). But veterinarians report
that four out of six American pet-owners do not have lambs. Thus
nymorhymes should not use four out of six vowels! (Nor lambs.)

Murphy put up grubby mutt.
Fur's slush-ugly rust,
Murph gulfs ruts unfussy but
Tug puppy, Murphy must.
Pup ups, uncurls, ungrustfully
Hups. Duty (Murph's) uncut,
Turns fun! But hush. Untrustfully
Thud dull truth's cuffs: "Mush! mutt!"

4 CRYPTO-OMISSION: What isn't there is what is! "Francis's cot trod eon;
Don's hot so met Urp at Ted, Mon. play. Ed boar'd bad. No to Do,
locked, hol in the Po." (But the missing are ---.)
Francis Scott --- rode on don---,
Shot some tur---, patted mon---,
Played ---board bad (not o--- do---!)--- locked ---, ho---, in the po---.

Here's a holiday challenge that will keep you busy til next year! Back 14 generations in Luke's Gospel (Luke 3:26) counting Jesus as number one, is a name that isn't a name, Maath. Now look at I Maccabees 2: 1-6 for your key and an

5 ACRONYM: Maccabeus, Avaran, Apphus, THassi = MAATH! (TH is one letter in Greek and Hebrew.) But it's I Maccabees' unused fifth name, Gaddi, the writer of Luke is pointing to. With the help of a concordance you can track him through the Old Testament and Apocrypha and you will find the name of the Essenic Teacher of Righteousness (no, it's not Jesus). The Essenes mastered the unseen in their writings, and never named their Teacher outright. And when looking at Matthew's genealogy, it also doesn't hurt to think

6 GEOMETRICS: Making something look like what it's about, like "Vine of Life" in the August issue? Or writing The Night Before Christmas in the shape of a Christmas tree, as done in the November 1973 Word Ways? You have to be cross-eyed drunk to read The X-Phile, or Close-Encountered Word Associations When Christmas-Shopping Macy's Drunk:

Gimbel
Gimble
Gambol
Gumball
Gumboil
Garble
Grumble
Gremlin
Gimlet
Goblin
Goggle
Gargoyle
Gable
Grabble
Gabler
Grabbles
Gimbel

7 WORD-OPPOSITE PARODIES: Staying sober on the night before Christmas but losing it at Lent:

Comes morn after Good Friday
Anytime on these flats.
All of Chaos moves restless;
Especially the cats ...
No old folks are rising,
Some cold, from my throws --
Not when, blind to sour grapes.
They lie on my toes!

8 ABC LANGUAGE What U R reduced 2 F U can't type 2 lderfuE

9 QWERTY: You type upper row, yet you're tri-tier poor. Pity! Trip to typewriter proprietor to re-equip, you rupture your toe. (Yipe! Ow!)


Pledge Ledge Edge will see you in February for ten more wordplays.