COLLOQUY

Rex Gooch writes about "Anything Trilinear": "It is not sound to argue that Susan Thorpe was unaware of, or did not use [software having isomorph-related functionality]...The fact is that results are the product of data as well as method. For example, in the case of LeXpert, the database consists of just 220,000 words, less than any top dictionary, and around 10% of what Chris Cole is aiming for (and that is a realistic aim). LeXpert is excellent for Scrabble, as the words are all official Scrabble words and may be restricted to UK or US subsets. The program itself is capable: for example, given the pattern ABCDEA, it will only produce words in which the first five letters are all different, whereas some programs may allow B=C, etc. However, I found it inscrutable, not appreciating a Help system which explains that a "prionic homonon" is a homonon which is prionic. It needs a tutorial or examples—perhaps the website helps. Darryl kindly showed me how to do the pattern-matching he described...LeXpert is capable within the limits of the types of search and word list it offers, is not easy to understand, but is free...
Also available on the Internet is TEA (The Electronic Alveary). It immediately offers a search pattern, which is very powerful: [to find isomorphs of AMERICAN] you just type 12345617 and Start to do a search, and it produces very many more words, presented by dictionary (e.g. Web2). The search does include other doubled letters. It is not free. Crosswords are a specialty...
The Web3 CD-ROM I find infuriating. The dictionary is itself very clear, though it does not identify plants, etc., sufficiently, giving only part of the full name. It provides searches by all manner of things of great interest, such as word origins and parts of speech, and is easy to use. The infuriating part is when you see it finding 40,000 words, telling you it will give you 4000 of these, actually presents 2000, and then you find many of these are duplicated or irrelevant (the match occurring on the second word of a phrase). I paid for it, and regret it. Darryl notes that you cannot use a wildcard in looking for anagrams...
Wordweb is another program which promises anagrams, pattern searching and 'customisable dictionaries'. There is a trial version lacking these features. It has definitions, and a thesaurus...
There were other programs in the past, but as for which I recommend: whatever suits! What do I use? None, though I am sometimes tempted."

Jeff Grant writes: "Something that may interest you—I was in the Auckland University Library recently and happened to see *Diccionario Medieval Espanol* by Martin Alonso (1986). What is unusual about this Spanish lexicon is that Volume 1 is A-C and Volume 2 is Ch-Z!"

Sir Jeremy Morse writes: "I can see a number of words in Susan Thorpe's 'Symmetrical Letter Patterns' which could be replaced by commoner examples, e.g., COLPECTATIC by CLIM-ACTERIC, and QUASIHUMOROUS by MULTITUDINOUS, but I could not make a single addition. In Darryl Francis's "The State Capitals Revisited" he proposed several coinages: for Frankfort 'heroin trafficker', for Harrisburg 'harbouring rivers', for Honolulu 'convolvulus moth', for Indianapolis 'dispensational gifts', for Jefferson City 'jailworthy offences', for Oklahoma City "amatory locksmith', and for Salt Lake City 'ecstatically drunk'. [Some of these can actually be found in OED quotations.]

William Brandt writes "In coming up with a title for the story ['Gull-day-looks Enter Tree Bars'] several alternatives were considered: Gaul-dilocks (the little girl from France), Gelding-locks (the

little girl who liked to train horses), Goal-dilocks, (the little girl who liked to play hockey), Guilty-locks (the little girl who stole our affections), Gull-dilocks (the little girl who liked to watch sea birds), Goldi-lacks (the little girl who was very poor), Goldi-lakes (the little girl who lived by a body of water), Goldi-leeks (the little girl who liked vegetables), Goldi-likes (the little girl who was very friendly), Goldi-looks (the little girl who liked to stare at people), and Goldi-lox (the little girl who liked to eat bagels)."

In a follow-up letter, Anil added the following to "Vowel Cascades, Vowel Movements and Di-Odes": "Vowel movements, because of their similarity to ablauts, could also be called "sound offs" after the etymology of ablauts, "off sounds", and by comparison with the familiar military cadence, "Sound off, one, two,…" But I doubt any ablauts cover all five vowels. The closest I know is the Random House (RH) example 'sing sang sung song." The latter itself alphabetises into a 4-vowel cascade definition: **sang: Sing-song sung.** This in turn, by rhyme, conjures up another cascade: **"Dang Deng! Ding-dong dung!",** a rather unflattering view of the late Chinese leader but a 'good' (Group 1) vowel cascade if we allow significant post-RH names. L Frank Baum's character names **Tallydab, Tellydeb, Tillydib, Tollydob & Tullydub** (see 98-138) are *double* vowel movements. But this is cheating since they were specially created to fit that category. Well before it was named, however." Errata: insert 'or' between two distinct interpretations (1), 'rest' should be 'nest', a synonym of nide, (15), 'kits' should be 'kites' (23), no hyphen between 'dib' and 'deb' (25b), 'nattily' should be 'nuttily' (28).

Richard Lederer has found the ten-letter pyramid word PEPPERTREE (hyphenated in the OED, two words in Webster's Third). For a list of other such words, see the May 1982 Word Ways.

John Kilpatrick constructed the following sentence of words that can be used in a card-trick mnemonic (see "Goose Thighs Rehashed" in the May 1994 issue): LOVELY VIRGIN STRAYS THOUGH UNDEAD. He writes "It was Wimbledon at the time, possibly 20 years ago, before great chunks of steel industry in Sheffield had closed, but when there was little to do in the office. It took me 20 minutes to dream up the above, in a sort of informal competition, but with the word VOLLEY. On the motorbike on the way home, I realised the anagram of VOLLEY, making a rather good sentence (last word a little weak but not much I can do about it)."

Oops! "Fish" should be omitted in the third palindrome in "Junk Palindrome Email", and the "Mod rats…" palindrome in Bruce Young's "Ma, Is A Fool As Aloof As I Am?" article should include "evil" before "stardom". In "A Modified Ten-Square" the Ajnodontia reference should be Anodontia, and ETERNESSE on page 9 is lacking a second N. In "Jailhouse Businesswoman…" the first erratum at the bottom of the page should have started AUIEO / CARBURETION… In "The Oz Contradictionary: Part 4" replace wraith with wrath in "Down With Gravity".

Darryl Francis writes to say he found a new transposition for Nashville: HANSVILLE, a town in Kitsap County, Washington according to the Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide (1967). The Century Atlas of the World (1897) shows another Hansville in Minnesota.

In Kickshaws, Dave Morice posed a question from Anil: Did you ever notice that the Roman numeral for 69 can be expressed as LIXX? Darryl Francis says "not so!" The Roman numeral for 69 can only be LXIX.