The Serf's English

The stupid person showed off on the gaudy race horse, but the unreliable, undependable group of people didn't have the money to be influential. The newly-promoted corporal with excessive pride in his military rank and decorations complained, "I've seen Air Force officers who don't like to fly become adept fighter pilots with false bravery inspired by intoxication - until they crash."

"That's all stupid talk!" The pimp rapidly ate sweets with his elegant, smartly-dressed, sexually attractive woman parading on the street next to him.

"What's the commotion, male who doesn't take his girl friend to social engagements?" The U.S. Air Force pilot became excited for an uproarious argument with the dude on a drunken spree in Boston.

"Just some person who excels at the fast singing of jazz songs to an accordion under the moon."

"Idle talk! Who's your girl friend? She's a woman of superior quality."

"Extinguish the cigarette, and she'll dance till dawn for a penny."

The girl had a fit. "But if you're shirking about your money, silly blundering person, I'll grab your genuine tuxedo and thrash you with my feet. No easy money, no vulgar dancing!"

"My foolish old married woman has more money in her ready-made clothes than you have in your platform in front of a side-show tent," the well-dressed person passed the time in idle chatter, "but I don't pretend she's a girl known only for her sex appeal."

"[expletive responding to an obvious, unnecessary statement]" the loud, garishly-dressed ladies' man jabbered, "my attractive woman has sexual intercourse with homely persons for money. I inspect very popular girls on Friday. If you've got the money for whiskey, let's hurry to a saloon. My beautiful girl has zest for diamonds."

"I understand the language, you darned itinerant pedlar. Anyhow, Red's head is champagne to my eyes. Her teeth, her head of long hair, her hat, her pair of hair puffs worn over her ears, her nose, even her glasses - how attractive!"

"With that flattery, you must be an actor given to overly-emotional performances. She's got more pep than an airplane, more sex appeal than a girl popularly acclaimed for her sex appeal," the rakish dude told the truth. "She's yours for any large sum of money."

The three hurried to a nightclub to get drunk. A drunk circus performer with too much whiskey made a noisy disturbance with bricks by the pinball machine. A youth with personal problems subdued him.

"What a saloon patronized by creeps!" the U.S. Air Force pilot complained. "Maybe we ought to leave quickly before some sideshow freak hits my ribbons representing military decorations."

"Leave, squeamish person?" the pimp gave a long reprimand. "Don't
strike the pilot's automatic ejection seat. Let's be a success! Let's dance to the saxophone! Isn't my sexually-attractive girl an excellent, pretty, attractive girl?"

"Sensational, but is she fooling me with falsies from her mail-order catalogue?"

"Go fly an airplane! My beautiful girl is no dog looking for food. She's got excellent female breasts."

"Excellent, eh? Bartender, more liquor. I'm an important person on a drunken spree with a snobbish, disagreeable girl. O.K., boss, how about a look at the woman's breasts from the sexually-attractive young woman?"

"You brag, wise guy, but where are the pornographic photographs? No, it's all babble."

After drinking in one gulp a glassful of the raw, inferior homemade alcoholic beverage, he snuck away.

Cryptarithmic Calendar  A = 6, D = 2, E = -4, F = 0, H = 4, I = 1, M = -3, N = -1, O = -5, R = -6, S = -7, T = 5, U = -2, W = 7, Y = 3

My! Chinese wheat-flour noodles (as in CHOW MEIN)

Perfection Test  PASS is the answer to all the blanks. Did you ...?

Crossword Ways 1. Jeff Grant (je + ff, G.R. + ant) 2. Leonard Gordon (reversal of Noel + a + rd, go + r + don) 3. Chris Cole (anagram of rich + s [cardinal point of compass], C + ole) 4. Ross Eckler (or = gold + S.S., end of the + anagram of clerk) 5. Darryl Francis (anagram of lady + R.R., franc + is)

Historical Errors  A is letter 1 of the alphabet, H is letter 8, and AND, taken as (ampersand - 'and per se and') always used to be appended to the alphabet like (or as) letter 27. So 1 = 1 to the third power, 8 = 2 to the third power, and 27 = 3 to the third power. Three cubes in succession.

Double-Letter Abbreviations  Both are musical terms: FORTE (f) and FORTISSIMO (ff); PIANO (p) and PIANISSIMO (pp).

ODC 2 RAKDA  A a AL aile AYL awhile B be B4 before BD beady BST beastie BUT beauty BUTC beauteous C see,she CLE silly CN seeing CNRE scenery CT city CZ sees D the,do DL deal DMN demon DR dear DYS devisive E we,he,hee EWL evil F of, have FN heaven G gee 1 I eyeb IC icy IDA idea IDL ideal IDLSM idealism IL I'll,isle I0A lowa IV 1ivy JL jail KG cagey KM came KN can KSL castle L all,hell LEN alien LO hello LON alone LX Alex M am MN a man MNMC eminency MNS immense MSRE emissary N an,and,in, on NCDS insidious NDD indeedy NME enemy NRE Henry NRG energy NVS evisious O oh,ho OCN ocean ODS odious OK okay OM home ON own PTS piteous QES curious R are,her RC horsey RE hurry REA area REN hurrying RAKDA Arcadia QT cutie RR horror RT hearty S his,is,its,yes,has,that's SKPN escaping S N isn't SNG asinine S Q ask you SRE sorry TLZ tells the TR tear U you UL you'll VL veal VU view VZ visit XQS excuse XLNC Excellency XPDNNC expediency Y why YL while 1 one 2 too,too 4 for 4N foreign
cess! Let's be excellent, mail-order for food.

For person on boss, how active young graphs? No, or homemade

127, 1 = 1, W = 7,

d you ....?

2. Leonard (Chris Cole + ole) 4.

FORTE (f)

be BD Beady

do DL deal
evIL F of,
a IDL ideal
11 KG cagey
en LO hullo
ancy MNS im-
us NDD in-
y NVS envi-
me ON own
hurry REA
or RT hearty
SN9 asinine
UL you'll

ency XPDNC

4NR foreigner 1 2 want to

My Palabama The two-state word is minnesota emissourinich which reduces to MNeMOnic, already answered in the text. Deciphered, the paragraph reads: take my pAL, cARI: the crAyZy CAT Couldn't aCT DEcent! he Flung the Garbage High, a triAL to fill IN sacKS, the lucky Lad MANaged to seeM DooMED to Mix a MNeMOnic. he cram's them To bunCHes AND NeVer even Hates it WHEN JaN Makes teN very tNY eggs. jOhn took them, OR my pAL dRips Crumbs Down that nose, but Xavier put Vats where bev threw A wish, now Vast yet snoWy.

UNFED ROCKS AND SCALY THINGS by Christopher McManus

Puzzle: appROVINGly, banKNOTes, carPENTRY, chilDISHly, ciUTTERing, colorATIONS, comPASSes, corPOReal, courT- HOUSE, curRENTly, deCAMEter, deFORMities, divERSIONary, disCON-CERTs, disPENSable, earNESTly, embOLDened, emPATHetic, flaunting, impROPERly, inSEMINate, lUMBERmen, marTINEts, mis-DELIVERed, misNUMBERS, monASTERies, peSTILEnCe, piLASTers, pin-STRIpes, piROUetting, purCHASES, readMITTING, reapPEARing, relATEdness, reSponDENTS, ruDIMEnts, saFFLOWER, saLAMander, shRUBBERies, sDELiights, surRENder, trUSTing, trAGE-Dies, unDIVERSIfied

Final Paragraph: apPEAling, apPALLing, seARCHers, porTENTous, forETASte, prolIFerate, commUNITies, familiARly, unwarRANTed, comPLAINing

STRANGE CONNECTIONS, ODD ETYMOLOGIES by Leonard R. N. Ashley

1. Gutta percha is Malay getah pertjah (gum from Sumatra) says M’Nair in Perak and the Malays (no connection with Latin gutta (drop) of rubber)

2. Salve is related to Gothic salbōn, German Salben (mire, mud); presumably mud poultices were used in olden times (no connection with Latin salve)

3. Wedlock is just Anglo-Saxon wedlac (engagement + gift), no relation to a bond

4. Sepoy is from Hindi sipahi (soldier armed with a bow and arrow) but those used by the British during the raj in India were armed with more modern weapons

5. Alley comes from alabaster, though kids who play marbles don't notice that and, in fact, marbles are generally now not made of marble

6. Fleur de lys is said to have been the badge of France's King Louis (Loys) VII

7. Gooseberry goes back not to geese but middle High German krūs (curling, hairy)

8. Pūrē is not pure (clear) soup but either French pōrée (made of beets or herbs) or Italian porrata (leek soup)

9. Menial has no suggestion of "mean" but is related to Anglo-Saxon meynel (a servant who lived in the master's house)

10. Shuttlecock was a cork, not a "bird" (cock), and the battledore (by the way) is Spanish batidor, while the name Badminton was that of a country estate where the game was played
11. Lanyard now is of rope but was once French lanière (narrow strap, perhaps of wool, because of Latin lana).

12. Tarragon was Latin dranunculus, which Philemon Holland (the "Translator-General of His Age") described thus in his 1614 translation of Pliny: "somewhat red, and the same wrythed and folded round in the manner of a Dragon, whereupon it took its name."

13. Nickname was an eke name, just an added one, not one assumed to trick Old Nick (a name we gave the devil because of memories of a sea monster).

14. Windlass was Icelandic vinda (wind) + áss (pole; cf. Gothic ans = beam).

15. Instep contains the idea of stoop (bend); it's where the foot bends, and is not related to step (sit on your stoop (or steps) and ponder that).