KICKSHAWS
DAVID MORICE
Iowa City, Iowa

~ WHACK KISS

What is a “whack kiss”? Whack is “a sharp or resounding blow.” Kiss is “a touch with the lips in kissing.” Put them together and you have an anagram for KICKSHAWS. Based on that, a new definition of kickshaw could be “a slap in the face following an unwanted kiss.” The Internet Anagram Server lists ten anagrams of KICKSHAWS. Here are the other nine.

- Whacks ski
- Whack skis
- Whisk sack
- Whisk cask
- Sick hawks
- Hawk’s sick
- Kick swash
- Kicks haws
- Kicks wash

Ten anagrams are way too few. To find a whole lot more, I typed in KICKSHAWS COLUMN, and 28,137 anagrams popped up. Here is a selection of my favorites:

- Cosmic hunk walks.
- Chalk mucks wino.
- Skunk claims chow.
- Chum’s cloak winks.
- Wackos munch silk.
- Owl unmask chick.
- Unlock whim-sacks!
- Suck monkish claw.
- Mulish claws knock.
- Cowman kicks lush.
- Mink’s couch walks.
- Hawk clonks music.
- Humans lock wicks.

- Hank, muss cowlick.
- Humans click woks.
- Mawkish sun-clock.
- Schmuck laws oink.
- Chum’s cloak winks.
- Wacko skims lunch.
- Khaki clown-scums!
- Chuck’s swank limo.
- Ask clownish muck.
- Woman chucks silk.
- Chic woman skulks.
- A chick knows slum.
- Mulish claws knock.

~ WORD WAYS ANAGRAMS

Stuart Kidd sent this bit of wordplay news. “That fantastic site Anagrammy.com (to which Mike Keith, among other Word Waysers, has made some stupendous contributions over the years) recently included:

Word Ways: The Journal of Recreational Linguistics = Fascinating literature source; hallow joy in words  - Tyler Severance
This was in addition to a couple from a few years ago:

**Word Ways, the Journal of Recreational Linguistics = New English laudation, acrostics or rare joyful wit.** – ‘View’

and

**Word Ways, the Journal of Recreational Linguistics = The Dictionary of Curious Wits, (learn Jargon as well) - Adrian Hickford.”**

~ FOOTBALL BOOTFALL

Stuart Kidd tells of “A live replay of a Kickshaws moment from TODAY!:

It was a hot Aussie summer’s day in January and the aircon was not coping. We were operating on both feet of a lady in her sixties.

Music was playing on the radio, when my colleague remarked, ‘Did they just sing FEEL the HEAT?’

Of course I had no logological alternative but to reply, ‘No – HEAL the FEET!’

~ WHAT IS THAT STUFF?

And speaking of stuff, Bill Brandt sends this stuffy bit of prose: “I have been wondering about the nature of stuff. Exactly what is it? If Astronauts have the right stuff. Doe that mean there is wrong stuff? It can’t all be smooth because some people like the rough stuff. And it can’t all be soft because some people like the hard stuff. It can’t be very big because good baseball pitchers put a lot of stuff on their curve balls. On the other hand it may be very heavy since some people have a ton of stuff in their garage. Maybe it is something ephemeral because people talk about the stuff that dreams are made of. Some people seem to have a lot of stuff. I would like to know where did they get all that stuff? And where do they keep all that stuff? I have heard that some people keep a lot of stuff in the basement while other people keep a lot of stuff in the attic. Maybe I am the only one who is in the dark about stuff because there seem to be a lot of people who really know their stuff. You may think this is just kid’s stuff, but if you have any suggestions, just send me the good stuff, but please don’t ask me why I write this stuff.”

~ HOLD EVERYTHING

Bill provides a new look—several new looks, in fact—at the old word “hold.”

“We hold the following to be self evident.
Hold the phone and just hold on. You need to hold your horses and hold your tongue. I know you don’t want to hold back but just hold everything and hold tight. You don’t want to be left holding the bag, but I don’t want you to try and hold my feet to the fire. Your accusation does not hold water. I did not hold off and hold out on you. I am not trying to hold you down. I just don’t hold with that type of behavior but I won’t hold it against you. You don’t have to hold up the line, I will hold it over and keep it on hold for you. You can hold me to my word on that. Hold fast and hold that thought, but just don’t hold you breath.”

~ FROM THE FREE PSYCHO HOTLINE

“Psychic Hotlines” are scattered throughout the web and the world, but where are the hotlines for people having various mental problems? The web has a spoofy resource that shows what could be done. It is called PSYCHO HOTLINE. The list below tells what to expect as a response directing the caller to choose from one of six problems. Bipolar Disorder and Tourette Syndrome were listed on the hotline, but they weren’t as high on the humor scale as they could be. I left them out so that readers can come up with better, more clever responses. You may wish to add other psychological problems, too.

Feeling a little stressed out today? Maybe you need someone to talk to! Call our free Psycho Hotline now!

Here is what you’ll hear when you call:

“If you are Obsessive-Compulsive, please press 1 exactly 4 times. You will be told you didn’t do it quite right. When you do finally get it exactly right, we may help you develop and perfect a new compulsion.”

“If you are Co-Dependent, please ask someone to press 2 for you. We will then help your partner find better ways to manipulate you more effectively.”

“If you have Multiple Personalities, please press 3, 4, and 5. We will hypnotize you and help you recover repressed abuse memories, and then refer you to an attorney who believes in that stuff so you can sue your abuser(s).”

“If you have Schizophrenia, listen carefully and a small, quiet voice will tell you which number to press. When you get it right, hang up and wait for the answer to come in code over the radio.”

“If you have Paranoid Delusions, we know who you are and what you want. Just stay on the line so we can finish tracing the call.”
"If you have Attention Deficit Disorder, press any numbers you can in rapid sequence. It won’t matter what the response is since you wouldn’t remember it anyway."

~ QUARKS & FROGS

What do quarks and frogs have to do with each other?

~ THE PHRASE OF THE BEAST

Tristan Occupinti found this tidbit of demonic wordplay on the web:

Take the phrase “expect the devil.”
Extract the letters that are Roman numerals: “eXpeCt the DeVIL.”
Add those Roman numerals: X + C + D + V + I + L = DCLXVI = 666.

~ CORRECTIONS

Jeff Grant noticed a couple of errors in the last issue’s Kickshaws:

"On p 288/289, the gremlins got into Jeremy Morse’s last list under ‘Consonantal Pairs’

DV  DVANDVA (not DVANOVA)
KW  KWELA (not KWEZA)
LL  LLAMA (QUECHUA not QUECHON)
NH  NHANDU (not NHANDOU)

On p 300/301, “In Susan Thorpe’s ‘Possessions,’ there is no possessive apostrophe in James Joyce’s classic FINNEGANS WAKE.”

~ TOWN SLOGANS

Brad Herzog, an award-winning author and experienced RV traveler, compiled the list below (which appears on the web) while crisscrossing the country by RV with his wife and two sons.

1. Gettysburg, South Dakota: Where the battle wasn’t
2. Hooker, Oklahoma: It’s a location, not a vocation
3. Linesville, Pennsylvania: Where the ducks walk on the fish
4. Jewell, Iowa: A gem in a friendly setting
5. Livonia, New York: Some bigger, none better
6. Peculiar, Missouri: Where the odds are with you
7. Spring Lake, Michigan: Where nature smiles for seven miles
8. Drumright, Oklahoma: Town of oil repute
9. Boswell, Indiana: Hub of the universe
10. Superior, Wisconsin: I'm a Superior lover
11. Forest Junction, Wisconsin: You can get there from here
12. Moscow, Maine: Best town by a dam site
13. Garden City, Missouri: A touch of heaven on Highway Seven
14. Eaton Rapids, Michigan: Welcome to the only Eaton Rapids on Earth
15. Union Springs, Alabama: Serendipity center of the South
16. Rockwell City, Iowa: The golden buckle on the Corn Belt
17. Apex, North Carolina: The peak of good living
18. Manhattan, Kansas: The Little Apple
19. Walla Walla, Washington: The city so nice they named it twice
20. Paradise, California: It's all the name implies
21. Melbourne, Iowa: Right on top, not down under
22. San Andreas, California: It's not our fault
23. Newton Falls, Ohio: The town with zip
24. Freeland, Pennsylvania: The most happening place on Earth
25. Gretna, Virginia: Ain't no big thing, but we're growing!
26. Hereford, Texas: Town without a toothache
27. Gas, Kansas: Don't pass Gas, stop and enjoy it
28. Haleyville, Alabama: Home of 911
29. Littleton, New Hampshire: A notch above
30. Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin: Winner's choice
31. Morrison, Colorado: The nearest faraway place
32. Wahoo, Nebraska: Home of the famous men
33. Leavenworth, Kansas: How about doin' some 'time' in Leavenworth
34. Boardman, Oregon: On the river and on the way
35. Hico, Texas: Where everybody is somebody
36. Wakefield, Kansas: I'll take you by surprise!
37. Beaver Dam, Wisconsin: Make yourself at home
38. Buckley, Washington: Below the snow, above the fog
39. Three Rivers, Texas: If you lived in Three Rivers, you'd be home
40. Bushnell, South Dakota: It's not the end of the Earth, but you can see it from here
41. Swanton, Nebraska: Dear hearts and gentle people
42. Hampton, Virginia: First from the sea, first to the stars
43. Kanab, Utah: Little Hollywood
44. Shenandoah, Texas: More than just a song
45. Show Low, Arizona: Named for the turn of a card
46. Phoenix, Oregon: The other Phoenix
47. Mexia, Texas: A great place to live no matter how you say it
48. Blue Earth, Minnesota: Earth so rich, the city grows
49. Beaman, Iowa: You're not dreamin', you're in Beaman
50. Beaver, Oklahoma: Cow chip capital
51. Andover, Kansas: Where the people are warm, even when the weather isn't
52. Knox, Indiana: Where opportunity knocks
53. Eastland, Texas: Where the Wild meets the West
54. Delmar, Maryland: The little town too big for one state
55. Broadview Heights, Ohio: The highest of the heights
56. Algoma, Wisconsin: Warm welcomes, cool breezes and hot fishing
57. Glendive, Montana: Where the best begins
58. Britt, Iowa: Founded by rail, sustained by the plow
59. Lodi, California: Livable, lovable Lodi
60. Cherryfield, Maine: Blueberry Capital of the World
61. Happy, Texas: The town without a frown
62. Weed, California: Weed like to welcome you
63. Ormond Beach, Florida: The birthplace of speed
64. Lowry City, Missouri: Where the Ozarks meet the Plains
65. Glenpool, Oklahoma: The town that made Tulsa famous
66. Addison, Texas: Where Dallas goes for fun
67. Poniatowski, Wisconsin: Centr of the northwestern world
68. Bangor, Michigan: Train City USA in the heart of Apple Country
69. Tombstone, Arizona: The town too tough to die
70. Claxton, Georgia: Fruitcake capital of the world
71. Hazel Green, Wisconsin: Point of beginning
72. Desert Hot Springs, California: Clearly above the rest
73. Dodge City, Kansas: The wickedest little city in America
74. St. George, Utah: Where the summer sun spends the winter
75. Eustis, Florida: The city of bright tomorrows
76. Lufkin, Texas: See the forest for the trees
77. Hurley, Wisconsin: Where 51 ends, family fun begins
78. Cairo, Illinois: Where northern enterprise meets southern hospitality
79. Anita, Iowa: A whale of a town
80. Harrison, Michigan: Twenty lakes in twenty minutes
81. Janesville, Wisconsin: Wisconsin's Park Place
82. Riverside, Iowa: Where the Trek begins
83. Coachella, California: City of eternal sunshine
84. Hyder, Alaska: Friendliest ghost town in Alaska
85. Junction, Texas: Land of living waters
86. Ashland, Wisconsin: Ashland tops Wisconsin
87. Bluffton, South Carolina: A state of mind
88. Whittemore, Iowa: Cares more, shares more
89. St. Louis, Michigan: Middle of the mitten
90. Hershey, Pennsylvania: The sweetest place on Earth
91. Elkhorn, Wisconsin: Living in harmony
92. Modesto, California: Water, wealth, contentment, health
93. Burkeville, Virginia: The little town that could
94. Kingman, Arizona: One grand adventure after another
95. Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania: The Switzerland of America
96. Versailles, Kentucky: History, horses, hospitality
97. Menomonie, Wisconsin: Traditional yet progressive
98. Livingston, California: “The last stop”
TOASTS...AND BURNT TOASTS

Ray Love talks about toasts, the kind that involve bubbly: “Toasts to individuals are spoken at weddings, graduations, rites of passage, awards and recognition ceremonies, retirements and other milestones in one’s life. Most of us have been to weddings where the best man or a relative has been asked to give a toast to the bride and groom. One cleverly worded toast goes like this, "Here’s to the happy couple. May all your pains be champagnes." The first time I heard this I was surprised and delighted by its sudden reversal, and have used it on occasion in a congratulatory card to newlyweds or a retiree. This got me to thinking there must be other toasts with a twist out there so I spent a few evenings with my dictionary on a seek and find mission. Here is what I sought and found.

"Here’s to the bride and groom: My all your fumes be perfumes."
"Here’s to the newlyweds: May all your fires be sapphires."
"Here’s to the happy couple: May all your flies be butterflies."
"Here’s to the bride and groom: May all your griefs be good griefs."
"Here’s to the newlyweds: May all your tears be profiters."
"Here’s to the happy couple: May all your rocks be shamrocks."
"Here’s to the bride and groom: May all your days be holidays."
"Here’s to the newlyweds: May all your fits be benefits."
"Here’s to the happy couple: May all your rants be exuberance."
"Here’s to the bride and groom: May all your weights be featherweights."

"Here’s to the retiree: May all your canes be sugarcanes."
"Here’s to the retiree: May all your pees be whoopees."
"Here’s to the retiree: May all your corns be caramel corns."
"Here’s to the retiree: May all your ills be thrills."
"Here’s to the retiree: May all your stones be gemstones."

However...

There are other toasts that can be classified as "burnt" toasts. These toasts are mean-spirited or revengeful. They are meant to twist the knife. For example, a jilted lover can make a toast at a wedding of the one who jettisoned him or a disgruntled employee can be disrespectful at his bosses' retirement. These can be used at any celebratory occasion, turning a milestone into a millstone. Here are a few retaliatory toasts.

"May all your grins be chagrins."
"May all your feats be defeats."
"May all your trophies be catastrophes."
"May all your fortunes be misfortunes."
"May all your ups be breakups."
"May all your paths be warpaths."
"May all your flowers be cauliflowers."
"May all your mates be primates."
"May all your cures be pedicures."
"May all your dough be sourdough."

To Ray's toasts, I would like to add, "May all your heirs be millionaires." And to Ray's burnt toasts, "May all your desserts be just desserts."

~ THREE PUNS IN A FOUNTAIN

Ray shares this triple play: "While working on this I was reminded of something I once heard early in my career and never again. Has anyone else ever heard this one-liner? The question is this, 'If a millipede a pint and a centipede a quart, how much did a precipice?' Is there an answer? If you don't know, urine good company.

~ SONNET ON THE NUMBER SYSTEM

The following is by a crazed numerologist. Can you figure out a solution that uses all the numbers?

When all is said and done, the number 1
Is 2 times greater than the number 3.
Though 4 and 5 and 6 are also fun,
The 7 is as wonderful to me.
An 8 I'll take, a 9 is fine, and 10
Is tender, like 11 when it's time
To add it to a 12. I'll say again
That 10 is tender, yet it isn't prime.
13 is nice, 14 is nicer though
It's not like 15, 16, or beyond.
For instance, 17 or 18—No!
It's one of those pure sums of which I'm fond.
I muse and meditate and marvel on it
Since 14 lines can make a lovely sonnet.

~ WORD-SMASHING or CYCLOTRON ANAGRAMS

Anil unveils a new form of anagram: "Like it's inspiration, a word-smashing anagram resembles an atom-smashing cyclotron reaction. Two words or phrases come from opposite directions and penetrate, blowing each other apart. I've seen a number of these but failed to mark them and can only offer the most recent example, when the name came to me. It's a mischievous anagram, ostensibly an antigram but opinions vary. I guess that's why I noticed it."
Religion  Re oil, gin?

~ RHYMING ANAGRAM COUPLETS

Anil writes, "Oil can represent either big money influence, or palm-greasing, or slickness generally. The anagram is also part of a fun form of poetry I've just begun collecting, rhyming anagram couplets."

~ MIND YOUR P'S AND Q'S

Anil and I have found many different sets of P's and Q's that need to be minded. Here are some of them. You're welcome to send others, as long as you (mind your parentheses) "and quotation marks"

pints and quarts
pens and quills
partridges and quails
petunias and Queen Anne's Lace
programs and quonks
peroxide and quinine
Presbyterians and Quakers
physicians and quacks
picograms and quindecillions
puffs and quiffs
pennies and quarters
porcupines and quill pigs
pyrite and quicksilver
poles and quarterstaffs
peanuts and Queensland nuts
pigweeds and quinoas
persimmons and quinces
promises and quibbles
proverbs and quotations
particles and quarks
pairs and quadruplets
pentagons and quadrangles
protests and qualms
perplexities and quandaries
preys and quarries
pseudo and quasis
put-downs and quashes
poached eggs and quiches
paragons and quintessences
peculiarities and quirks
proceedings and quittings
puzzles and quizzes
products and quotients
peace and quiet

~ SNEAKY PALINDROMES

Anil believes that some palindromes are sneakier than others. Here are a couple of examples:

mail:  “L” I am.
A definitive because, as everyone knows, L is a letter. (And the first of all letters!)

It’s a bird! It’s a plane!! It’s a palindrome!!! It’s...

Superpower!!!(Re wo prep us.) [wo = woe:Web3]
Superpowers are inherently dangerous. Ironically, this is also the superpower’s own rationale (or rationalisation)—Defense!

~ OLD PALINDROMES REVISITED

Anal sends a palindrome that should connect with wordplay people:

Stardom deified mod rats.
combining two old pals with a potent, timely synergy

~ A TABOO DEFINITIVE ANAGRAM

Anil sends this hot button anagram with an explanation:
singles  ginless

“womanless: Gin is an Aboriginal word for woman (Macquarie Austral. Slang
Dict.). Unfortunately whites turned it into a racist term, so I shouldn’t use it, but
it’s just too apt here to resist. However, it’s also sexist, defining only single men,
lesbians and orphans, so let the darts come. (Or does the anagram merely
mean that singles could get “married” if they just shared a few drinks?)

~ A LOADED AND POINTED POLYANAGRAM

self-conceited  Nice-fed “closet nit” fleeces cod.

Anil explains this polyanagram as follows: “A closet nit is an undercover
idiot who hides it behind silence or jabber. And what a loaded word is cod.
Cassell Dict. Slang gives all the following uses, any of which, especially the
underlined, can be construed as appropriate to this anagram: (noun) bag
(W3) >purse >money or >scrotum (in pl.) >penis (sing.); God; fool; friend;
drunkard; joke, leg-pull, parody; deceit, a lie; fake, fishy, parodic (theatre);
cheat, defraud; tease, hoax. Fool and friend work best as it is. Fake, fishy,
and cheat and hoax (as verbs) work best if a comma is inserted between
fleeces and cod. Deceit, lie, and cheat and hoax (as nouns) work best if the
last two words are swapped.

~ DOUBLY ANTONYMIC SPOONERISM

refrain  free rein

Another creation of Anil’s: “Restraint vs. free rein is the obvious, strong
antonym. In addition, etymologically refrain comes from OF frenum, bridle,
another horsey reference and the opposite of rein free.”

~ SCROOGED AGAIN!

Anil discusses the name Scrooge, which is “better known as a Dickens character
than as the word it’s borrowed from. It’s an alternative spelling of scrounge, which
in turn is an alteration of scruple, probably a blend of screw and squeeze. In
Web3 all these words mean tighten or squeeze, and in slang most mean a
tightwad. So the title of this paragraph, a familiar pun on ‘screwed again’, is
etymologically correct and so not a pun after all!
No kidding.”

~ R-RARITY

Anil notes that “Four-letter words with two r’s are rare. Here are four of
them: (Errs! Rear, ruer—roar!)”
~ HOMOPHONIC WORD LADDER SHORT STORY

Anil contributes the follow to the canon of short story literature:

Fucked Gig
Mac’s mikes mix makes max mucks, mocks Mex-Micks.
This travesty can be summarised in a perfect
HOMOPHONIC ALPHABETIC SHORT-VOWEL CASCADE
Mac’s Mex mix mocks, mucks.

“Mex-Micks, or Mex for short, is an ethnic fusion rock group. Mac is their
incompetent sound man. For other meaningful vowel cascades, see WW 02-53,
192.”

~ ANIL’S CONFESSION

“Dave, my increasing error-proneness inspired this confession, which you can
use in Ks if you don’t think it will offend other senile readers:

I’m semi-senile. The middle semi of seNile. (See? Nil. See nil!) See
ya, ‘Nil

Or do most readers quit when they become senile. Quit reading Word Ways
instead of dying hard impaled on word play like yours sometimes truly. I may
double up and reuse this anagram twice, in my upcoming “Definitive Anagrams:
S” article and in a planned article on Definitive Homophones (which are only
rarely also anagrams, marking this as special in the doubling context):

senile  see nil.
Unless it’s an oldie and I missed it. (Get it? See nil. I missed it.)”

~ AN IMPERFECT POEM

In 1977, a friend of mine, Dennett Hutchcroft, and I drove to Alaska. We visited
several cities, including Juneau, where we found a street called “Wino Alley.” As
we walked down the alley, we saw two gentlemen sipping their lunch out of a
brown paper bag. The vacant lot in which they were sitting had a mountain of
beer cans and booze bottles that was at least 15 feet high at the peak. After a
couple of minutes of contemplation, I said to Denett, “I just thought of a poem for
this scene.” And I wrote the poem down...

Alaskan Drinking Song

You know
I know
Juneau
Wino.

"Alaskan Drinkin Song" is a single-stanza trochaic monometer quatrain with an abab rhyme scheme, and it's about an alcoholic who lives in specific location. It seemed to be perfect. No other words could possibly fit into that tight bit of verse. In fact, no other poems could be written in that form. Or so I thought. I wrote an essay about it titled "A Perfect Poem," which appeared in David Lehman's book, *Ecstatic Occasions, Expedient Forms*.

Thirty-six years later, in 2013, I was walking down Reno Street in Iowa City, about two blocks away from where I live. And then I realized that what I'd believed about poetic perfection was wrong. An Iowa City street named after a town name from Nevada showed me the error of my belief in poetic perfection. And I wrote the poem down...

**Nevada Drinking Song**

We know  
I know  
Reno  
Wino.

Pretty good. It was short and to the point. It was a twin of the first poem, and it too was perfect. Or was it? I realized that it wasn't—alas! I found that there was a Texas town named Plano that worked the same way. And I wrote the poem down...

**Texas Drinking Song**

They know  
I know  
Plano  
Wino.

Not a bad poem. It was short and to the point. It was a triplet of the first two poems, and like them it was perfect. Or was it? No, of course it wasn't—alas! I did a Google search and found a North Dakota town named Wano that worked in the same way as the Texas town name. And I wrote the poem down...

**North Dakota Drinking Song**

They know  
I know  
Wano  
Wino.
I learned that there is no such thing as perfection in poetry, only imperfection. I have achieved that perfectly. In fact, there are at least two more American geographical names that work. GRAINO, California and WAINO, Wisconsin. Both are unincorporated communities. Around the world there are other places that rhyme (or appear to rhyme) with "You know," "We know," and "They know." ("I know" always has to rhyme with "Wino," since each of these poems is a drinking song.) Of the four town names above—Juneau, Reno, Plano, and Wano—which one has a population that is greater than the other three added together?

~ IDENTIFICATION

Rich Lederer writes, "Identify a famous shortstop whose name consists of eleven letters and seven of those letters are the same vowel."

~ TWICE UPON A TIME

Tristan Miller provides a reply to Anil's comment in the May 2005 Kickshaws that "Once upon a time is a tautology. Whoever heard of twice upon a time?"

Tristan's answer: "Why, Moondog, that's who! In 1970 CBS Records released the hugely successful sampler album Fill Your Head with Rock; included was one of the eccentric street musician's recordings where he is heard to utter, 'Machines were mice and men were lions once upon a time. But now that it's the opposite, it's twice upon a time.' But it turns out Moondog wasn't the only one to use this odd turn of phrase.

For example, 'Twice Upon a Time' was the title of a 1953 British comedy film whose plot was borrowed for the better-known Disney movie 'The Parent Trap' in 1961. The earliest use of 'twice upon a time' in print that I can find is in the humorous poem 'The Roaming History of Fitz Gibbon' which was printed in the 8 May 1856 issue of Melbourne Punch.

http://www.nothingisreal.com/ In a haiku, so it's hard
<> To finish what you

Regards,
Tristan"

Anil's reply: "Point well taken. But it's still a tautology as usually used. I like Tristan's haiku, by the way, really cute."

~ POONERISMS
~ QUINTUPLE PUNS

Anil provides a quintuple pun puzzle. Can you figure out what the five puns are in the following word plus definition?

assess  an unpleasant little verb of a jenny that values her bottom worth

~ CHEMICAL GLEE

I found a chemical term (word?) that has the most repetitions of a trigram that I've ever encountered. It's in a Chinese website, and it looks like this:


It has thirty Gly's in toto. I like the way it ends with a different pair of letters. It's as if someone were reading the name out loud, and when they reached the end of the Gly's, they exclaimed "OH!" to indicate their surprise.

~ AMINO ACID AND GENETIC CODE WORD WORDS

Going beyond GLY, Anil came up with two scienficologological questions and their answers:

1) How many of the 20 basic protein-forming amino acids' triplet nicknames are words?
Answer: counting abbreviations and phrases, fully 14 qualify. These are:

- try(ptophan) = try
- met(hionine) = met
- pro(line) = pro
- his(tidine) = his
- asp(artic acid) = asp
- leu(cine) = leu or Leu (basic monetary unit of Romania and Moldova [They're not in the Euro zone.])
- ser(ine) = ser (variant of seer) or ser. (abbrev. for series, serial, service)
- ile(ucine) = ile = -ile (suffix of state [agile, juvenile] or division [decile, percentile]) or ile- (prefix, of the ileum)
- val(ine) = Val (name) or val (short for valenciennes) or val. (abbrev. for value, valentine, valley)
- thr(reonine) = thr. (abbrev. of through, their, thrust)
- tyr(osine) = Tyr (Scandinavian god of battle [=Mars], after whom Tuesday is named) or tyr- (prefix, of cheese)
- ala(nine) = a la
- asparagine = asn = as n
- arg(inine) = arg. (abbrev. for argent, argument) or arg! (informal spelling of pirate or caveman cry or a cry of grief)
Excluding abbreviations, pre- and suffixes, proper names and phrases, only the first 6-7 of these are words (Leu may be a proper name, although dollar and pound are not), and only the first five are common words (try, met, pro, his, asp).

A related question:
2) How many of the genetic codeword triplets are words or non-acronym abbreviations? (Almost any three letters form an acronym, often obscure, according to the Cassell Dictionary of Abbreviations.) The code letters are A,C,G,T for DNA and A,C,G,U for RNA. Hence U and T never occur together, ruling out the words cut, gut, tug and tau.
Answer: 8 words (5 common: act, cat, gag, tag, tat) plus 4 abbreviations.

- codon
codes for
- AAA = financial rating, team level, or battery size
- ACT = act
- threonine (thr)
- AGA = aga or Aga (an Ottoman commander)
- arginine (arg)
- AUG = Aug. (August)
- methionine (met) or chain termination
- CAG = keg (variant) or cag (offend, insult: English dialect) glutamine (gln)
- CAT = cat
- histidine (his)
- GAG = gag
- glutamic acid (glu)
- GAT = gat (Gatling gun, or arch. past tense of get)
- aspartic acid (asp)
- GTT = gtt. (pharm. abbrev. for guttae)
- valine (val)
- TAC = tac. (abbrev. for tactical)
- tyrosine ( tyr)
- TAG = tag
- chain termination
- TAT = tat (fancy needlework)
- tyrosine (tyr)

~ THERE’S NO “T” IN ALL OF CHINA!

“So where have all the letters gone?” Anil asks. “This A-Z lipogram exercise has probably been done before, but if so here’s another version, with feigned apologies.”

Missing letter
There’s no A in the quit-drinking club. And what can be done about it?
Do Aught, they want to be anonymous, alcoholics.
No B in any apiary.  
No C in a hundred years.  
But it'll take decades.  
No D in a nuclear bomb.  
are fairly dangerous.  
No E in mail.  
Express.  
No F in the English temperature scale.  
metically, by degrees.  
No G in a thousand dollars.  
to have $1000!  
No H in a nuclear bomb.  
So drop it!  
No I in ego.  
selfishness and conceit.  
No J in an aviary.  
Joint.  
No K in a police dog, nor in a chess set.  
Ha ha, check!  
No L in Christmas.  
birthday.  
No M in a body's inherent weight.  
would say.  
No N in the room.  
'N' Mary.  
No O in a bank.  
Robber barons!  
No P in a urinal.  
a puppy.  
No Q in a waiting line.  
Quicker.  
No R in the Left.  
No S in plural, but one in singular.  
beats four!  
No T in China.  
goblets.  
No U in a flock of sheep.  
sheep.  
No V in electric potential.  
No W in electric power.  
cleaner?  
No X in the henhouse.  
naked chicks.  
No Y in question.  

Get married and enjoy a wild  
Just wait, it'll come, it'll come.  
Do nothing!  Deuterium bombs  
Send your IEtters by snail  

Get your global warming facts  
Tough.  (But gee it'd be grand  
I already told you it's hazardous.  
Bypass your ego with direct id  
Look for it some other kind of  

Get a police kitten and name it King.  
Enjoy an L-ternaire infidel  
It doesn't matter, as higgs or einstein  
Spend the night in a barN like joseph  
Right, don't borroNes from the  
Pacify yourself on a pine tree like  
Buying or booking online is  
Right!  The left left it out.  
QED.  2 pluralS = 1 single.  One cook  
Get it from taiwan.  Or use tin  
Baa!  They're in us ewe-man type  
Revolt!  
Watt about the W in a vacu-um  
They all hatched into x-rated  
Don't ask Y.
No Z in nosey. Let your nosey no-Z noser snore when you snooZZZe.

~ THE NAMES OF CATS AND DOGS

I have two cats—Dark Star and Zoey. My Veterinarian, Dr. Nyren of Veterinary Associates—gave me a list of names for cats and dogs that he has treated in his clinic and allowed me to publish them in Kickshaws. Here is a selection for all you animal lovers. If anyone knows of a pet of any sort with a very unusual name, please send! Don’t you think Kickshaw would be a fine name?

CATS

AniBoo          Kinky
Aphrodite       Kitza
Bacardi         Lacpleasis
Big Boy         Lao Tzu
Birthday Boy    Lieutenant Dan
Boo-Boo         Little Bit
Boose           Luxio
Bullet          M&M
Butters          Mad Martigan
C.A.T.          Miles Dewey Davis
Cat Man II       Miss Julia
Snoopchicken    Mojo
Chunky Charlie  Mr. Magoo Joe
Confucious      Night Pelt
Darwin          Phazer
Exponential     Po
Fancy Nancy     Portia
Father Henry O’Malley Prince Flower
Ferocious       Sadie Mae Glutz
Fizzig          Sam Furbee
Four Wheel Drive Sassy Paws
Fukutarot       Shyznet
Garage Kitty    Spanky
Goopy           VooDoo
Gwydion         YumYum
Happy           Zinzi

DOGS

Addie Mae       Marimekko
Bacon           Mazimus Minimus
BamBam          Meeko
Belly           Mister Bascam
Black Jack       Nimue
Bonzai           Oreo
Booker T. Marengo Pfoyd
Brahma           Pooka
Breezee          Pork Chop
Buddha           Pretzel
Cabella          Rook
Cowgirl          Selkie
Dash             Siwash
Dollar Bill      Speeze
Dusty Gooddog    Sunny
Gringo           Tank
Guppy            Timber
Honey Beigh      Tonka
Huck Finn        Uma
Indi Ana         Una
Itty Bit         Vaca
Khayman          Whiskey
Lazlo            Xerces
Luna             Yosa
Lynyrd           Zaitsev
Magic            Ziplet

~ A NEW TAKE ON AEIOU

Susan Thorpe comments..."Despite all the varied and various genres of AEIOU which have appeared in Word Ways over the years, there is one which, until now, has remained undiscovered.

In the 2-word designation NATO UNITE, the 5 vowels aeiou appear once. In addition, the 2 consonants N and T both appear once in each word and there are no other consonants. The 2-word designation makes sense. Here are some more:

STUDIO DATES (s+t+d)
NOT AUNTIE (n+t)
SOUNDER DRAINS (s+n+d+r)
BLAIR'S ROUBLES (b+l+r+S)
RUEING GROAN (r+n+g)
MIA'S MOUSE (m+s)
GET AGOUTI (g+t)
GOA'S GUISE (g+s)
TODD AUDITED (t+d+d)
ANNE'S UNIONS (n+n+s)
TOURIST TREATS - or TREATS TOURIST (t+r+s+t)
LOUD DELIA (l+d)
LOUDER LAIRD (I+d+r)
ISOLATE SLUT (s+i+t)

~ SHARK CUDDLING

(Can you figure out the literary constraint in this poem?)

He hurried to rescue his sister
Named Julie. The ocean would blister
The sandy beach. Julie was swimming
By seven sharks. Bobbie tried trimming

The topmast of Nellie, his schooner.
He forgot to repair it sooner.
And water tore slices that rippled
In breezes. Poor Julie was tipped.

She staggered out, holding a frisky
Dog drinking wine. Guzzling some whiskey,
Her brother said, “Boozing while sailing
Is asking for trouble. We’re failing

To avoid the seven. “Oh, Fuddle!
They’re friendly, like kittens you cuddle.
They cuddled her, joining each other
Till Julie was missing her brother.

~ KING JAMES LIMERICK CHALLENGE

Recently I wrote a limerick based on the first two verses of Genesis. I used the
King James Version of the Bible, and I tried to keep as close to the original as I
could. The limerick wasn’t intended to be funny. I thought about doing the whole
Book of Genesis, but a Google search showed that someone else had already
done a Limerick Bible consisting of 1,001 limericks. I tried to find the first of this
gentleman’s limericks to compare with the limerick I wrote, but his were only
available through Amazon. Then it occurred to me that I could ask the Kickshaws
readers to do their versions of the start of Genesis. If you do write a King James
Limerick, please send it to me, and it will appear in the next Kickshaws. Here is
the text that I used. My limerick is in Answers and Solutions—but please don’t
read it until you’ve finished writing yours.

King James Version of the first two verses of Genesis

1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
2 And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of
the deep.