KICKSHAWS

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THE SECOND MILLENIUM

Happy thousand -- and that many congratulations. I put together Kickshaws a few times
in the 1980s and I know how hard it was to gather just the right material. In the August
1987 Word Ways (20: 175-83), I quoted Nobellist in Literature Elias Canetti, from <The
Human Province> (New York; Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1978) by listing 31 of his short
thoughts about words. I can't think of a better replay than a baker’s dozen of these. Here's
to your next kilokick! ---Ed Wolpow

--- The various languages you ought to have: one for your mother, which you will
subsequently never speak again; one which you only read but never dare to write; one in
which you pray but without understanding a single word; one in which you do arithmetic
and to which all money matters belong; one in which you write (but no letters); one in
which you travel, and in this one you can also write your letters.
--- Of all words in all languages I know, the greatest concentration is in the English word
<1>.
--- The gods, nourished by worship, starving to death in unnamedness, recalled in poets,
and only then are they eternal.
--- The best person ought not to have a name.
--- Literature as a profession is destructive; one should <fear> words more.
--- The only interesting thing about translating is what is lost.
--- I have never been to any place whose name did not attract me there.
--- All events fear their words.
--- One never suddenly gets rid of a word that has become dangerous. One first has to go
to a great deal of bother to use it in the wrong sense.
--- The rich in words grow obsolete first. First the adjectives wither, then the verbs.
--- Words sucked full, like bedbugs.
--- The smashers of language are looking for a new justice among words. It does not
exist. Words are unequal and unjust.

BO, THE DOG STAR

On March 16th, Rich Lederer emailed me the following palindrome, which uses “BO” in
it referring to actress BO Derek.

What did the star of the movie “10” say to the president of the United States?
“OBAMA, I AM A BO.”

And there it stood for almost a month. Then, on April 13th, the first family shocked the
world by electing to get a presidential pooch, and they named their canine candidate
“BO.” Could Mr Obama have named the dog after Ms Derek in a transgender, transpecies move to commemorate the Clintons’ cat, who went to cat heaven on February 20th? First Cat Socks (1970–1990) and First Dog Bo both show the important role that animals play in the Washington power structure. These two politically powerful pets remind the leaders of the world that dogs and cats take quite different, yet equally valid, approaches to the delicate matter of whitehousebreaking, and that ambassadors from other countries should do their duty according to their own traditions on their official visits to the White House.

A few days ago, Mike Morton emailed me a message about the onomastic drama unfolding in the highest doghouse in the land: “I hear the new White House dog is named Bo. I look forward to palindromes based on ‘. . . BO OBama.’” This stunning development demanded an immediate response, so I wrote the following two palindromes and emailed them to Mike within minutes:

  Obama stating his feelings about getting the new pet:
  
  YO, BO! GOD, A DOG! OBOY!
  
  The dog’s apology after having an “accident” on the rug:
  
  BO: “OBAMA, I AM A BOOB.”

Rich’s original line with BO in it has turned into a politically palindromic puppy prediction. There can be no BOOne of contention about that.

**DAYCRONYMS**

Rich comments that “a looping anagram of TGIF (‘Thank God It’s Friday’) is GIFT, and the weekend is truly a gift—unless you’re a workaholic, in which case you exult, ‘TGIM!’ I am reminded of a little gift shop in New Hope, PA, that carried greeting cards with a four-letter word visible when closed and the same word as initial letters of a four-word message when opened. Two cards were sitting next to each other, one with the familiar TGIF on it, and the other with SHIT on it. Can you figure out what the letters of SHIT refer to with regards to a specific day of the week? I came up with a “daycronym” for DAMN (“Damn! Another Monday Night.”) Can you create a daycronym, especially one that uses a cussword?

**BOY MEETS GIRL**

Ray Love wrote the following elliptical piece. “I find it sometimes interesting to read how people meet and fall in love. Some first encounters can be surprising... and wryly amusing. With that thought, here is how one girl managed to find her true love. It’s poetic justice. I simply call it...”

  GIRL MEETS BOY

  Slippery ice...very thin;
  Pretty girl...tumbled in;
Saw a boy...on the bank;  
Called for help...then she sank;  
Handsome lad...heard her shout;  
Jumped right in...pulled her out;  
She hugged him...though all wet;  
Now you know...how they met;  
She found love...ain't that nice;  
But first she had...to break the ice.

STRANGE BUT TRUE:

In 1985, after getting back from a trip to Venezuela with my wife, I built a "Lettershift Calculator" using an unopened can of baked beans. I put seven strips of paper around the can. Each strip was divided into 26 parts with a letter of the alphabet on each part. When you rotated the strips to spell a word, such as PECAN, the other 25 divisions formed strings of letters, and sometimes a string spelled a word. PECAN, QFDBO, RGECP, SHFDQ, TIGER. That was 24 years ago. Today the lettershift calculator is bulging--literally, as if the 24-year-old beans were pushing from the inside. How could this happen if the can is still unopened? I rotated the strips to spell BEANS and looked for words to explain this phenomenon, and this is what I found. (Asterisks indicate letters that are left out.)

FIE**
BEANS
*SOB*
**OR
*PLY*

DITTO: A MAN OF ONE WORD

In this dialog, one character speaks only one word throughout, and that word is “ditto,” and his name is “Ditto.”

"Hey, man, I'm really hungry."
"Ditto."
"I'd like to get a burger at McDonald's."
"Ditto."
"I'll pay for mine."
"Ditto."
"Wow, I think it's really a nice day."
"Ditto."
"I'm going to ask that girl for a date."
"Ditto."
“I wonder if she’d mind you tagging along.”
“Ditto.”
“Let’s find out.”
"Ditto."
"Excuse me, but would you like to see a movie with me?"
"Ditto."
“This is my friend, Ditto."
"Ditto."
“Oh, you don’t want to go out with my friend?"
“Ditto.”
“Then I’ll tell him to leave.”
“Ditto.”

THE APPLESAUCE OF YOUR EYE

Louis Phillips has a whole new orchard of apples that are sauced and ready to devour. Take it away, Louis!

**
Did you talk to the dress maker today?
Yes, but all he did was hem and haw.

**
PIRATE OBSERVATION

Cutlasses
Cut lasses.

**
R = a hint of respectability

**
WHAT CHARLES DICKENS CHARACTER REALIZED THAT THIS SHORT VERSE CAN ALSO BE READ THE SAME WAY UPSIDE DOWN?

    PIP
    did.

**
WHY THEODORE GOT IN TROUBLE WITH THE LOCAL POLICE BY WHAT HE GREW ON HIS FIRE-ESCAPE

Pot Ted
Potted.
**
For a man named Bo who censors literature

   BO OKs
   Books.

**
Is the spelling of reversible irreversible?

When you read the word BACKWARDS you are actually reading it forward.

**
A SHORT HAPPY LIFE

Exist.
Exits.

**
Brief review of a play by Harold Pinter

NO PLAYS LIKE HOME.

**
What is the difference between a man standing outside on a summer day, and a detective hired to follow the actors involved in South Pacific?

One casts a shadow, the other shadows a cast.

**
A CHARACTER FROM WAITING FOR GODOT GOES SLIGHTLY CRAZY IN GEORGIA WHILE TRYING TO GAIN A GLIMPSE OF A GREAT MOVIE ACTRESS RIDING THRU ATLANTA ON HER WAY TO LOS ANGELES

Gogo
Goes
Gaga
In Ga.
Ga
zing at Ga
rbo. Gogo
Gog
to prepare for battle, six members of the anti-Minh group arrived just before dawn, and townspeople saw the defaced posters and cried out: OH NO SIX SOS XIS ON HO

In South Vietnam, many civilians feared the troops of Ho Chi Minh, the leader of the North. An elite group of South Vietnam spies known only by the Greek letter "XI" each member stamped a warning sign on Minh's face. When morning came, the same to me. I made up a palindrome that really does read the same upside-down. It appeared in Alphabet Avenue. I have recently extended this palindrome by adding the SOS in the middle. Let's see what it looks like this time. Here's the set-up ending with the palindrome:

NO X IN NIXON REVISITED

NO X IN NIXON has been cited as the longest palindrome that reads the same upside down. Okay, let's see what it looks like upside down. NOXIN NI X ON. Doesn't look the same to me. I made up a palindrome that really does read the same upside-down. It appeared in Alphabet Avenue. I have recently extended this palindrome by adding the SOS in the middle. Let's see what it looks like this time. Here's the set-up ending with the palindrome:

In South Vietnam, many civilians feared the troops of Ho Chi Minh, the leader of the North. An elite group of South Vietnam spies known only by the Greek letter "XI" infiltrated Minh's army and found out about impending military activities. Whenever the name of their organization, XI, appeared anywhere, it served as a warning to mean "Save Our South." One night someone put up posters all over one of the villages. The poster depicted a smiling Minh saying in a cartoon balloon "We Will Not Hurt Your City." The anti-Minh spies knew that the North was trying to lull the city into a false sense of security preceding an attack scheduled for the following day. To warn the townspeople to prepare for battle, six members of the anti-Minh group arrived just before dawn, and each member stamped a warning sign on Minh's face. When morning came, the townspeople saw the defaced posters and cried out: OH NO SIX SOS XIS ON HO
FOUR-WAY ROTATIONAL PALINDROME

In Ariel typeface, four letters, NOXZ, still form letters when they are rotated 90, 180, and 270 degrees. N becomes Z, Z becomes N, O becomes O, and X becomes X. (In lower case, bdopquxz work this way.) In the palindrome below, OZ is the L. Frank Baum creation, and ZO is a shortened form of ZOE or ZOYE. X means either “cross out” or the letter X. You can add punctuation to fit your own interpretation.

As you read it, turn the magazine slowly in a circle and imagine that the message is printed on a windmill whose arms are rotating around and around and around and around...

X

N
O
Z
O
N
X
O
Z
O
N
X
O
Z
O
N
X
O
Z
O
N
X

HOORAY HENRY

“According to the Cassell Dictionary of Slang (1998),” Jeff Grant reports, “a HOORAY HENRY is 'a rich young man given to much public exhibitionism, drunkenness and
similar antisocial activities, all based on an excess of snobbish self-esteem'. Despite the term's almost invariable appearance in a UK context, it was apparently invented by the American writer Damon Runyon in the 1930s.

Logologically, this expression is interesting, possibly even unique. Apart from the obvious fact that it contains two words beginning with H and ending in Y, both these words have reversals with a distinctly opposite flavour.

- **HOORAY** cry of joy
- **YAROOH** cry of pain (OED)
- **HENRY** unit of electrical inductance
- **YRNEH** unit of reciprocal inductance

While **YRNEH** was deliberately coined as a reversal of **HENRY**, there is no evidence the same process applied for Billy Bunter's characteristic 'YAROOH!''

**MINORCA ACRONIM**

Jeff has a created a geographicologological curiosity: “Mediterranean Island North Of Rocky Coastal Algeria is the perfect acronim for MINORCA, and MINORCA is ACRONIM spelled backwards.” Jeff’s respelling is similar to that of ANTONIM, listed in Webster’s 2nd Edition as a reformed spelling of ANTONYM.

**PALINDROMIC ENDS**

The following poem, by Susan Thorpe, takes a different approach to palindromic versification.

In Picadilly one day,  
The statue of lore  
Was wrapped in scaffolding.  
‘Twas an **Eros eyesore**.

The trick should have been  
A slight of hand – magic.  
But the conjuror choked  
On the **cigar** – **tragic**!

He didn’t notice the weeds  
Or the iris flag.  
It was all too much bother  
The **garden drag**.

E.T. visits our planet  
Every now and then.  
‘None Earthly Identifiable Life’  
It’s **Neil, an alien**!
The Pick of the Pops
Were a very noisy lot.
But the Beatles’ record
Was in the no. 1 top spot.

“We’ve been mountaineering”.
They talked such rot.
All it had been
Was a rambling tor trot.

THE RIME OF THE QUAINT OLD MILLINER

The following parody of Coleridge’s “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” is by Susan.

It is a quaint old milliner
Who makes hats for all to see.
With his homburgs and his neat pork pies
He toppeth you and me.

I revere the quaint old milliner.
I revere his skilful hands.
Head gear of note for every crown,
Complete with ribbed hatbands.

Day after day, day after day,
He slaves, work is his potion.
Seaming without a single slip,
His magic hands in motion.

Feathers, feathers everywhere
And all the brims of mink.
Feathers, feathers everywhere,
Yellow, green and pink.

And hats of straw with rose and bow,
And white veils oh so bold.
His customers exclaim ‘oh my’,
And every hat is sold.

PITCH PEOPLE

Ray Love forwarded some winning examples from a Washington Post contest: “One of the contests the Post ran late last year involved pitchmen and pitchwomen. The instructions were for readers to choose an appropriate person, real or fictional, to comically endorse a product or company. The more outlandish the better. Here are 10 of
the "losers" in the Post contest:

Harry Whittington (Dick Cheney's hunting pal) for Target
Monica Lewinsky for Hummer
50 Cent for Lehman Brothers
Marty Feldman for Google
Steve Irwin for Ray-Ban
Lorena Bobbit for Johnson Wax
Mike Krzyzewski for Hooked on Phonics
Al Gore for Green Giant
Pee-Wee Herman for Hot Pockets
Lou Dobbs for Borders: Come celebrate our Grand Closing!

“As this premise fit my style of humor,” Ray comments, “I jumped at the chance to see up with what I could come. Here is up with what I cometh.”

Peter Rabbit for IHOP
Jenny Craig for Waste Management
Tina Turner for L'eggs
Vladimir Putin for Red Lobster
Ralph Nader for Diehard
Hubert H. Humphrey for Preparation H
Santa Claus for Comet Cleanser
Dolly Parton for Sweet Tomatoes
Billy Ocean for Tide
Pearl Mesta for Hostess Cupcakes
Brigitte Bardot for 20th Century Fox
Carmen Miranda for Chiquita Bananas
Eliot Ness for Raid
John Holmes for Super 8
Ronald Reagan for Dutch Boy
Michael Phelps for Midas
Sarah Palin for Lenscrafters
Glen or Neve for Campbell's Soup
Eliot Spitzer for Bed, Bath & Beyond
Congress for Dole Corp. or Dollar Tree
Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders for Toys R Us
Dale Earnhardt for Circuit City
Pete Sampras, Charles Goren or Eddie Rickenbacker for Ace Hardware
Mae West for Old Spice
George Custer for Arrow Shirts
Rosie O'Donnell for Dairy Queen
E. G. Marshall for Eeegees
Timothy Bottoms for Depends
Yertle the Turtle for Shell
John Wayne for Best Western
Cat Stevens for 9 Lives
Howie Mandel for Mr. Clean
Marilyn Monroe for M & M Candy
Sting for Bumble Bee Tuna
Twiggy or Olive Oyl for Slim-Fast

DEAD POETRY SOCIETY

Ray discusses the permanent goings of the literary word: “The Post looks back every January on those whom have transferred their residency to beneath the grass or being blown in the wind, and invites readers to commemorate their departure in clever verse. Here are some of the "dead lines" humorously eulogizing the class of 2008:

Bobby Fischer was to chess
What Saint Laurent was to the dress:
A luminous creative force.
He soon became world champ, of course,
Which made the Russians truly sick
(Too bad he was a lunatic).

The millionaire'd vowed to balloon o'er the main,
Despite the naysayers who'd scoff.
But alas, the good luck didn't hold for his plane,
And the gods had Steve Fossett turned off.

Mel Ferrer:
Mel is dead and buried where
He won't be coming up Ferrer.

Charlton Heston's stiff and cold;
His time on earth is done.
I guess they finally got the chance
To pry away his gun.

I first saw sexy Bettie Page
In '55, when 10 years old,
And still today my hormones rage.
I bet she's Heaven's centerfold.

For Bettie Page, the die is cast.
Around the globe, men fly half-mast.

Donald Westlake, aka Richard Stark:
Donald Westlake, Richard Stark,
Their work was none too shoddy.
Two writers died last year, but cops
Have only found one body.

“This is the first year I was aware of this dead giveaway contest so I submitted two overly ambitious entries of my own. I now see brevity is the key. I'm looking forward to this year's crop of deceased. Anyway, here are the two I submitted, losers both.”

ALBERT HOFMANN

Albert Hofmann discovered LSD
And opened minds so all could see.
Now purple cows were everywhere,
On hallowed ground and in the air.
It was fun to hallucinate,
To go around in altered state.
And when he died at 102
His purple cows were still in view.
Not to worry, it was a fact,
He left this world with mind intact.
He said goodbye with tears and hugs---
His final trip was not from drugs!

EARTHA KITT (She died on December 25.)

Dear Eartha Kitt had style and grit.
She made a song that was a hit.
"Santa Baby", she sang her way.
How apt she died on Christmas day.
When Santa came, the story's told,
He left for her...a lump of gold.

LOG ON SLOGAN

Don Hauptman notes that long and unwieldy website links can readily be converted to smaller and more memorable ones via tinyurl.com, a free service. Perhaps because Don was an advertising copywriter for more than 30 years, he was inspired to create the perfect slogan for the company: “Big URLs? Don’t cry!”

FRACTIONAL NUMBER NAMES

Many articles have appeared in Word Ways about numerical wordplay, especially the area of self-referential numbers. This idea hasn’t been explored for fractions. Here is one way to do that for fractions greater than 0 and less than 1.

Take a fraction, convert the numerator and the denominator to their number names, count the letters, convert the sums to their number names, count the letters, etc. For example, one/fifth = 3 letters/5 letters = three/fifths = 5 letters/6 letters = five/sixths = 4 letters/6
letters = four/sixths = 4 letters/6 letters etc. The series ends with 4/6 because 4/6 results in the numerator and the denominator having 4 and 6 letters. Some fractions end in a 4/7-4/8 loop; that is, 4/7 has four/eighths letters, and 4/8 has four/eights letters. Do all fractions lead to these two endings—4/6 self referential fraction name or 4/7-4/8 loop?

An extension of this idea is to require reduction of fractions when that is possible. Then 4/6 reduces to 1/2: four/sixths = 4/6 = 2/3 = two/thirds = 3/6 = 1/2 = one half = 3/4 = three/fourths = 5/7 = five/sevenths = 4/8 = 1/2. In this case, all fractions reduce to either of two results—1 or 1/2 self-referential fraction names.

At least one fraction, four/sixths = 4/6, counts itself before the reducing to 2/3. That is, the numerator has as many letters as its number, and the denominator has as many as its number. There are many trivial examples—24/26, 34/36, etc. Do any other nontrivial examples exist?

There are also fractions that reduce to 1. The fraction 29/30 = twentynine/thirtyths = 10/10 = 1 is the “1-fraction” with the lowest denominator. Which fraction with the lowest numerical value that does this? The highest?

What happens if fractions greater than zero are included? What happens if cardinal number names are used in the denominator instead of ordinals? What large, related area of number names has yet to be explored?

____________________________

AFTER OGDEN NASH

This poem, dedicated to Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker, is my take off on Ogden Nash’s poem beginning "The one-l lama, he's a priest..."

The one-k Baker, he's a cook.
The two-k Bakker, he's a crook.
But I'd bet my coffee-maker
There ain't no three-k bakkker.

FUNNY FORTUNES

Ray sends the following tongue-in-cheek fortunes from fortune cookies. The authors are unknown, anonymous, nameless, or otherwise missing in action.

*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*
Man who scratch butt
Should not bite fingernails.
*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*
Man who eat many Prunes get good run for money.

Baseball is wrong: Man with four balls cannot walk.

War does not Determine who is right, war determines who is Left.

Wife who put Husband in doghouse soon find him in Cathouse.

Man who fight with Wife all day get no piece at night.

It take many nails To build crib, but one screw to fill it.

Man who drive like Hell, bound to get there.

Man who live in Glass house should change clothes in Basement.

Man who fish in Other man's well often catch crabs.

Person who deletes this has no humor!!!
5. Wealth x's your zenith.

**TIME TRAVELING TENSES**

Jeremy Morse was reminded by Susan Thorpe’s “Tense Exchanges” article in the last issue “that the past tense of one verb can also be the present tense of another, as BOUND in the triplet BIND-BOUND-BOUNDED. Here the first past tense is irregular and the second regular. Similar triplets arise from BREAK, CROW, FALL, FEEL, FIND, GRIND, REND, SEE, SLAY, and LIE-LAY-LAID. The latter offered the prospect of a quadruplet when I found that LAID was a Scottish and North English form of LOAD, but alas the OED notes it only as a noun, not a verb. However, stretching things a bit, I can offer the quadruplet WEE-WEED-WED-WEDDED. Wee is a modern euphemism for ‘urinate,’ and WED is a dialect variation of WEEDED. Some sixty years ago I heard a Norfolk gardener say ‘I wed that patch yesterday.’”

**AN UNDEFINABLE DICTIONARY**

Ove Michaelson has written since around 1980 “An Undefinable Dictionary” that contains his definitions and opinions. Here are some of them.

Bigotry: Usually a myopic condition (often under the guise of open-mindedness) of accusing others of prejudice different from, or to the exclusion of their own. (Compare with the definition of "bigot" by Ambrose Bierce [1911]).

Cars: Two-ton mobile cigarettes with noise.
Change: The forever endeavor.
Christianity: A blessing in the skies.
Clique: A coterie outside one's "group."

Conversation: Often meaning two or more monologuists in a battle for the floor.

Deluxe: The poor person's "premium."

The desert: There's no WHERE there.


Evictees: The outwardly mobile.

Experience: Learning a LITTLE and paying a LOT.

Family values: A conspicuously conservative term of unclear meaning.

Gambling/Gaming: A monetary lapse of reason.

Generation Y (born between 1981 and 1995, possibly coined by author Eric Chester), also called Millennials and Echo Boomers: Too young to conform, too old to rebel. / Hightops, low pants, and a warm place to shop. --conceived with Marin Fischer

Heavy Metal (music): Rock bottom.
Hookers: When they say "love," they mean business.

I like you as a person: I don't find you physically attractive; let's be friends instead.

IRC (Inter-Relay Chat): The NetherNet.
Klutz: A stutterer in body language.

Late bloomers: Usually meaning discovered or accepted late (in life).
Mass-market publications: Fast food for thought; mental cuisine for the illiteratti.

Minimum wage: Fiscal abuse.
Music: Tonal/emotional math.
No baggage: No contents.
Poetry: All work, no pay.
Polygamy: Pluralysis.
Pulp novels: Illiterature.

Punk music: Aural terrorism (a take on a quote by composer Richard Wagner about his artistic intent).

Rags to riches: From hard knocks to Fort Knox.
Rant: A lengthy (or seemingly lengthy) monologue or "diatribe" to the reader or listener of the "whiner."
Recession: Omni-pittance.
Rolfing: S&M with a twist.
Self-centeredness: It takes one to no one.
Sinner: The next best thing to a saint.

Sit-in (a sixties term): Those who would not stand for injustice, and refused to take it lying down.

Southern California: Sun, heat, and no "place" in particular.
Speaker of the House: His master's voice.
Spiritual: Emotional with imagination.
Style: Lacking versatility (as opposed to versatile: lacking a style).
Subculture: The econo-classed.
Underhanded compliment: A compliminsult.
Weirdo: An eccentric who's not an artist.
Yard sales: Nothing you've ever wanted and more.

ILOVETOFOU

Ove informs us that the above vanity plate that was the center of controversy in Colorado recently. According to Jason Arango in General News, “One Colorado woman's quest to share her love of tofu with as many people as possible was brought to a screeching halt when her request for a vanity plate was denied. The reason given, the license plate could
potentially be interpreted as profane. While we have nothing against tofu, the complaints do seem largely valid as soon as you look at the license plate below: We might be in the minority, but without any context behind it, our first assumption probably wouldn’t be, ‘Wow, this driver must really like tofu.’ And, we kind of wish the state had just let her have the license plate so she could be constantly amazed at the amount of supportive honks she receives from other like-minded drivers.”

OBITUARY LIMERICK


Bob Anderson’s play really shined,  
But its impact today has declined.  
That’s an outcome he guessed,  
For he made this request:  
“Years from now, when you stage it… be kind!”

UNUSUAL DEFINITIONS OF COMMON WORDS

Some everyday words have uneveryday meanings. Here is half an alphabet’s worth of words from Webster’s 10th Collegiate.

ASH: the ligature æ used in Old English and some phonetic alphabets to represent a low front vowel \a\.

BARB: any of a northern African breed of horses that are noted for speed and endurance and are related to the Arabians

CON: to commit to memory

DOWN: being a quark with an electric charge of \(-1/3\), zero charm, and zero strangeness

EYE: a triangular piece of beef cut from the top and bottom of a round

FAKE: one loop of a coil (as of a ship’s rope or a fire hose) coiled free for running

GRIPE: to cause pinching and spasmodic pain in the bowels of

HOMER: an ancient Hebrew unit of capacity equal to about 10 \(\frac{1}{2}\) or later 11 \(\frac{1}{2}\) bushels or 100 gallons (378 liters)

IMP: to equip with wings

JUMBLE: a small thin usu. ring-shaped sugared cookie or cake
KITE: a check drawn against uncollected funds in a bank account or fraudulently raised before cashing

LEDGER: a horizontal timber secured to the uprights of scaffolding to support the putlog

MASK: the head or face of an animal (as a fox or dog)

**THE DAY CLOCK**

Kickshaws has just learned that the US Government is secretly planning to change from the current numerical time system to an alphabetic time system. NASA inventors have drawn up plans for the Day Clock, which uses letters instead of numbers to refer to the days of the week. It also chimes the beginning of each day using the musical note corresponding to the letter representing the day. On Sunday, it chimes A; thus Sunday is Do Day. Here is the basic diagram of the Day Clock:

```
     A
    /|
   G | B
   | o
   F | C

E    D
```

The official reason for this change is to familiarize members of the U.S. Congress with the English alphabet. A survey of 100 randomly-chosen Senators and Representatives showed that the average Congressperson can identify by name 19.7 letters and can place 14.2 of them in correct alphabetic order. All of the Congressional participants correctly identified A as the first letter, but only 37% identified Z as the last letter. Twelve members said that Z was the second letter, since they’d remembered hearing it in the phrase “going from A to Z.” Two of the twelve said they thought the alphabet began “AZCDE...” and ended “…VWXYZ.”

The real reason for the switch to alphabetical time is to confuse the enemy in military situations. If time is expressed in letters that even the Congresspersons aren’t quite sure of, then America will be able to codify its strategic time without the enemy knowing what in the world the government is talking about.

Compare alphabetic time to the old fashioned am/pm method, or even worse the cumbersome method used by the armed forces. Combat experts agree that military time is the number one reason that mess hall food is served late, and we all know that a hungry battalion is a recipe for defeat.
Here is how the Day Clock uses letters to give alphabetic time. Everyday time and (in parentheses) military time are included to show the differences.

Week = 7 Days: The Clock has 7 letters A to G around the rim. A represents Sunday, B represents Monday, and so on.

Day = 24 Hours: The span from one letter to the next is divided into 23 hour letters—A-W. BC represents Monday, 3:00 am (0300 military time).

Hour = 60 Minutes: The span from one hour to the next is divided into 58 minute letters—A-Z, A-Z, and A-F. EMF represents Thursday, 1:59 am (1359 military time).

Minute = 60 Seconds: The span from one minute to the next is divided into 58 second letters—A-Z, A-Z, and A-F. My name, DAVE, represents Wednesday, 1:22:05 pm (0122:05 military time).

It seems inevitable that the century designations will also shift from numbers to letters. Alphabetically speaking, the 21st century will be called the Uth Century. Once our country and our alphabetic allies have made the transition from numbers to letters in clock time, let’s hope that the next step for America is to change our Social Security Numbers to Social Security Letters. It’s a bold move that has been sorely needed ever since the Roosevelt Administration sent an infamous memo directing Congress to use numbers instead of letters on Social Security cards.

All alphabet-loving souls in the English speaking world will applaud the current number-to-letter changes in what the CIA refers to in its top secret memos as “the Alphabetization of America.”
About 26 years ago the Scrabble Goddess appeared in my house. She was as beautiful as the game of Scrabble. In fact, if it weren't for Scrabble players believing in her, she would cease to exist. Actually, she did cease to exist when I dropped her on the floor. At least her sacred image, shown in this photograph, ceased to exist. It shattered into however many Scrabble tiles it took me to make her. Now all that remains are a couple of holy cards in the form of photographs. Pray to her, and ye shall be rewarded with rare letters. Amen, Bmen, Cmen.
RUBBER STAMP AMERICAN GOTHIC

Out of Grant Wood’s wondrous view of Iowa came the immortal American Gothic. Out of a rubber stamp with the words “Grant Wood, Iowa Artist, Stone City, IA” came Rubber Stamp American Gothic. This picture involved rubber-stamping a 9 x 12 sheet of paper thousands of times. It took several hours and several screams at my cat (who almost chewed a corner of it) to get this piece done. Word becomes image, image becomes word.