ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS

KICKSHAWS by David Morice

The Forty-Letter Paradox The first sentence sets the 40-letter rule, the second sentence demonstrates it, and the third sentence acknowledges the truth of the second sentence. The first and second sentences are true since each has 40 letters, but the third sentence has 41. Thus the third sentence is false, which makes the second sentence false. But the second sentence is true. So the first sentence is false, but it, too, is true. Then the third sentence is false, but it's true...and the merry-go-round of paradoxes keeps on spinning! Interestingly, the problem dissipates when the middle line is dropped and the word "second" changed to "first" in the last line:

A sentence must contain forty letters to be true. Therefore, the first sentence is a true sentence.

One for the Guinness Book of World Records BEING OSTENTATIOUS When the lack of sexual restraint / Is a controversy, / ls aphoristic moralizing / A control of the conscience? All words are listed in Webster's Seventh Collegiate within the definitions of the original boldface words from which they were derived (except for "-ness").

Trio for One Voice If you read only the odd-numbered words in the first stanza, you get the second stanza. Likewise, if you read the even-numbered words, you get the third stanza.

The Postal Union Possible answers for the two-step states: 1) MIS-SISSIPPI (MI) down to MICHIGAN (HI) down to HAWAII. 2) NEW MEX-ICO (CO) down to COLORADO (OR) down to OREGON. 3) UTAH requires a branching downward from an upward branched state: SOUTH CAR-OLINA (AR) up from ARKANSAS, then SOUTH CAROLINA (UT) down to UTAH. Unmappable states: IDAHO, KANSAS, KENTUCKY, and TEXAS. Most versatile unmapped state: MARYLAND, with MA, AR, LA, ND. Most versatile mapped state: INDIANA, whose abbreviation IN appears in 1L, MN, NC, SC, VA, WV, WI, WY. Note that IDAHO, KANSAS, and KENTUCKY are mappable if they're printed in reverse—OHADI (OH), SASNAK (AK), YKCUTNEK (UT, TN, NE). TEXAS, though, can't be mapped no matter how you scramble the eggs!

A Tangled Web of Words Untangling this paragraph is fairly simple. The punctuation marks serve as clues to mark off the clauses within the clauses within the sentence. In the list below, the first line is the sentence. The second line is the clause which fits into the space in the first line. The third line fits into the space in the second line, and so on. The pivotal phrase is "against his better judgment." In the original paragraph, everything before the pivotal phrase is the beginning of a clause, and everything after it is the ending of a clause. Just read down the left column,

make a U-turn, and read up the right column to reconstruct the paragraph.

The accused: Big Mike The verdict: Guilty

The crimes: Murder, Bank robbery

The real criminal: Susan, aka Melissa, aka Joyce

The scenario: Susan changed her name to Melissa and then to Joyce. As Melissa, she killed Ted with a dagger; and as Joyce, she robbed a bank. Then, calling herself Susan again, she accused Big Mike, her boy friend, of the bank robbery to throw the authorities off the track of the murder. Her plan would have been discovered, but Detective Jennings fell in love with her. Big Mike was sent up the river, the poor sap.

Big Mike when Susan without whom he whose rugged jaw as he muttered "Why did you who committed after you changed your name though nobody--" but he paused while he glared at her even though Melissa thought which seemed immaterial for the courtroom where the judge before the verdict whether Big Mike was guilty though Melissa since Ted no longer however she when Big Mike because she blamed him while the cops who trusted although they sensed until Detective Jennings against his better judgment

was found guilty! fingered him wouldn't have been arrested was clenched bitterly under his breath lay your rap on me?" both crimes from Melissa to Joyce ''--seems to realize to catch his breath. in the witness stand of Ted as her real lover to the prosecuting attorney was packed with an angry mob heard Susan's surprise testimony could be decided or framed murdered him with a dagger wanted to buy diamonds for her played her cards was picked up for her bank robbery held him at gunpoint her innocence her guilt fell in love with the lady

Towers of Babel 1: exterior, result, linger 2. bannister, omniscient, punctual 3. intuition, ogre, frigate 4. elephant, pear, stockade 5: mixture, adamant, horrendous 6: intermittent, evolution, captivate

SLANG FORENAMES Leonard R. N. Ashley

1. John 2. Wilma 3. George 4. Peter (or Dick) 5. Nancy 6. Alice 7. Jock 8. Paddy 9. Jerry 10. Roger 11. Sheila 12. Bruce 13. Mary Jane 14. Albert 15. Tom 16. Joseph 17. Joey 18. Jemima 19. Mickey 20. Ruth 21. Nellie 22. Nick 23. Sammy 24. Tommy 25. Victoria 26. Zelda 27. Charlie 28. Adam 29. Benny 30. Harry