

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, / Is 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) MISSISSIPPI (MI) down to MICHIGAN (HI) down to HAWAII. 2) NEW MEXICO (CO) down to COLORADO (OR) down to OREGON. 3) UTAH requires a branching downward from an upward branched state: SOUTH CAROLINA (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 IL, MN, NC, SC, VA, WV, WI, WY. Note that IDAHO, KANSAS, and KENTUCKY are mappable if they're printed in reverse--OHADI (OH), SASNAK (\overline{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,

