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 + II, 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 for 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  RKDA  A  a  AL  hal e  AYL  awhile  B  be  B4  before  BD  beady  BST  beastie  BUT  beauty  BUTS  beauteous  C  see, she  CLE  silly  CH  seeing  CNRE  scenery  CT  city  CZ  sees  D  the, do  Dk  deal  DMN  demon  DR  dear  DVS  devisious  E  we, he, hee  EWL  evil  F  of, have  FN  heaven  G  gee  1  L, eye  IC  icy  IDA  idea  IDL  ideal  IDL5M  idealism  IL  I'll, isle  IOA  lowa  TV  Ivy  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  MNNC  eminency  MNS  immense  MSRE  emissary  N  an, and, in  on  NCDS  insidious  NDD  indeedy  NME  enemy  NML  animal  NRE  Henry  NRG  energy  NVS  envious  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  RKDA  Arcadia  QT  cutie  RR  horror  RT  hearty  S  his, is, its, yes, has, that's  SKPN  escaping  S  N  isn't  SN9  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  XPDNC  expediency  Y  why  YL  while  1  one  2  to, too  4  for  4N  foreign
cess! Let’s mail-order for food.

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

\[ 4, 1 = 1, W = 7, \]

\[ 27. \text{So } 27 = 3 \text{ to } \]

\[ \text{FORTE (f)} \]

\[ \text{BD beady} \]

\[ \text{CLE silly} \]

\[ \text{DL deal} \]

\[ \text{evil F of,} \]

\[ \text{IDL deal} \]

\[ \text{IL KG cagy} \]

\[ \text{LO hello} \]

\[ \text{MNS im-} \]

\[ \text{NDD in-} \]

\[ \text{NVS envi-} \]

\[ \text{one ON own} \]

\[ \text{hurry REA} \]

\[ \text{or RT hearty} \]

\[ \text{SNG asinine} \]

\[ \text{UL you’ll} \]

\[ \text{ency XPDNC} \]

\[ 4N foreign \]

My Palabama The two-state word is minnesota emissourinic which reduces to MNeMOnic, already answered in the text. Deciphered, the paragraph reads: Take my pAl, carAli: the crAZy 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 cramS them To buNChes and NEVer even Hates it when Jan Makes teN Very tinY eggs. John took them, OR my pAl dRips Crumbs Down that Nose, but Xavier put ViTs where heB threw A Wish, now vast yet snowY.

UNFED ROCKS AND SCALY THINGS by Christopher McManus

Puzzle: appRovingly, banKNOTes, carPEnTry, centIMEter, chiLDISHly, ciUTthering, coloraTIONS, comPASSes, corPOral, coOPERates, courTHouse, cuRREntly, deCAMeter, deFORMities, disCON- certs, disPENSEable, earNESTly, embOLDenEd, emPAThetic, fantaunting, impROPERly, inSEMinate, lumBERmen, matTREses, mis- delIVEREd, misNUMbers, monASTERies, peSTILEnce, piLASTers, pin- STRIPes, piROUetting, purCASherS, readMITting, reapPEARing, relatEdness, resPOnsents, ruDIMEnts, saFFLOWER, saLaMander, shRUbeRries, siDElights, skETChier, surREnder, thRUSTing, trAged- 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 (Loy) VII

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

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

9. Menial has no suggestion of “mean” but is related to Anglo-Saxon meyneal (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 lanterre (narrow strap, perhaps of wool, because of Latin lana)

12. Tarragon was Latin dranunculus, which Philemon Holland (the "Translator-Generall 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)