KICKSHAWS

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Readers are encouraged to send their own favorite linguistic kick-shaws to the Kickshaws Editor, 618 8th Avenue, Coralville IA 52241. All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue. Guest editors will appear occasionally.

I Am...

...a letter in a syllable in a word in a phrase in a clause in a sentence in a paragraph on a page in a chapter in a story in a collection in a dialect in a language in a society in a culture in a civilization in a period in an epoch in a tradition in an era in an age in a history in a book in a set on a shelf in a section in a bookcase on a wall in a room in an apartment on a floor in a building on a street in a block in a neighborhood in a city in a county in a state in a region in a country on a continent in a hemisphere in an ocean on a planet in a solar system in a constellation in a galaxy in a supergalaxy in a megagalaxy in a universe in an infinity in an eternity in a reality in a dimension in an existence.

Pundromes

Pundromes are word-order palindromes in which the front half is a reverse pun on the back half: the first word and the last word are homophones, the second word and the second-to-last word are homophones, and so on to the center point. A baker's dozen examples appear below. Yours are welcome, and you may call them in. I can be reached at my office phone or my homophone.

No eye sees the seas I know.
Shoo gnats off Nat's shoe.
Would Ernest buy maid two matches, too, made by earnest wood?
Meat? Whee! A butcher, eh? We meet.
Pshaw! Reed doesn't read Shaw.
Our bear won prizes one bare hour.
Hi! Sore two feet? Know it's no feat to soar high.
Russian maid wears clothes to close wares made rushin'.
We'll know no car, know no wheel.
Knight, buy Whale's Inn wine or whine in Wales by night.
Find bee or be fined!
Mary, maid missed in mist, made merry.
Sonny to Cher: "Please share." "Too sunny."

Coming Forth

Peter Newby has developed a new way of turning one word into another by logological progression. The three known ways, illustrated by converting FIRST to LAST, are: (1) Triplet: FIRST-FIST-FIT-1T-1-Al-A-AT-LAT-LAST; (2) Synonym Chain: FIRST-HEAD-CLIMAX-TOP-EXTREME-LAST; (3) Linked Phrase: FIRST-BORN-FOOL-HAPPY-MEDIUM-TERM-TIME-OUT-LAST. In the fourth way, which Peter calls a Cast-Off, one takes the original word (FIRST), selects an internal base word (FIT), and adds letters one by one from the target word (LAST) to make four transitional words. Two variant cast-offs going from FIRST to LAST appear below. Can anyone come up with a cast-off using the longest possible base word derived from the original word?

F1RST-it-Lit-Ait-Sit-Tit-LAST
F1RST-fit-fLit-fiAt-fiSt-fiTt-LAST

Going Fifth

As Spock on Star Trek once said "There are always alternatives." Peter suggests a fifth kind of word conversion, an Anagram-Synonym Chain. One anagrams the original word and chooses a synonym of that anagram; then one makes an anagram of the synonym, and selects a synonym of that anagram; and so on. Using Collins Thesaurus as the synonym reference, Peter's F1RST-LAST chain follows. He wonders whether anyone can come up with another pairing of opposites and transform them in a similar fashion — in five different ways.

FIRST/RIFTS-GAPS/GASP=GULP/PLUG=STOP/OPTS=ELECTS/SELECT=RARE/REAR=LAST

First Complete 3x3x3x3 Word Array

Leonard Gordon writes "The article on the alphabet cube in the May 1990 Word Ways prompted me to seek similar cubes for four-letter words. My computer identified groups of words with common letters, often called Garble Groups, but which I prefer to call Word Arrays. There were enough large arrays so that it seemed likely that a full 3x3x3x3 array could be found. My task then became a dictionary treasure hunt. I was able to satisfy my goal in only one case."

Here is the only 3x3x3x3 block that Leonard could find. Proper names were excluded. Sources are indicated by number of capital letters in a word: All caps = Merriam-Webster's Pocket Dictionary; 3 caps = Webster's 9th Collegiate; 2 caps = Webster's 3rd Unabridged: 1 cap = Oxford English Dictionary; 0 caps = English Dialect Dictionary, Scottish National Dictionary, or Dictionary of Middle English. Words from Web 3 may or may not be in the OED.

DANE Hane MANE Dant HANT MANT DANK HANK Mank
DINE HINE MINE DINT HINT MINT DINK HINK MINK
DONE HONE Mone dont Hont Mont DONK HONK MONK

	HARE			HART				MARK
	HIRE			Hirt			Hirk hork	
Dase	Hase	Mase	DAst	HASt	MAST	dask	HAsk	MASK
	hise				MIST		hisk	
DOSE	HOSE	Mose	DOst	HOST	MOST	Dosk	hosk	Mosk

Can anyone find PUDE, LULE, PUSE or WUTE in any dictionary? Leonard has a four-letter word array missing only three words.

Love in the Office Supply Room

We started with pencils And parted with stencils.

The Mother of All Palindromes

DRAT SADDAM, A MAD DASTARD! The Gulf War spawned this palindrome - a bombshell instantly acclaimed the world over for its backward beauty. It couldn't have been written without the cooperation of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi dictator.

But Ku-wait a minute! Who really wrote it? Several people independently discovered it. Once the circumstances were in place, it was inevitable. To get a feel for its purity, try making a palindrome with the name Schwarzkopf. The General may have won the war, but he lost the palindrome.

The Saddam palindrome sounds like a normal sentence. It's natural. It doesn't distort grammar and syntax in any way. It's succinct, too. Not wordy like A RED RAT, SADDAM! A MAD DASTARD ERA.

It also makes perfect sense. His name can fit into palindromes that make little sense, such as NO, I NOD: A LA SADDAM, ADD A SALAD ONION! You wouldn't hear that spoken in too many places outside a cannibal feast.

And it has power. Four of the five words, all but the article, form a linguistic show of force. Much better than any close alternatives, such as Porky Pig saying DRAT, SADDAM, A D-DASTARD!

It's ironic that a man who can inspire such an outstanding palindrome can wage a fool's war, lose it, and continue his tyranny. To this one can only comment DRAT, SADDAM, ALL ITS EVIL ALIVE, STILL A MAD DASTARD!

Longest Place Name in a Palindrome

Jeff Grant has written a palindrome incorporating an 85-letter name of a city located in his province of Hawkes Bay. The name is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records. To work it in, he mixed English with Maori words. His explanation, followed by the 'drome in all its alphabeticity:

Snatches of conversation from an early New Zealand expedition comprising Maori guides Wl, TOMA, and UA (these names do exist), and Europeans NOR (short for NORBERT), KIP (also known

as KUP), AGNA the GNAT (also known as H.W.), and "TOGS" TELL (a descendant of William), as they come upon the hill (KOP) with an 85-letter name. The Maori words, in boldface, are TIKA (even), UKI (white clay), AE (yes), and ATAMUA (first morning).

MAORI ROAM

"Uh! A tan - a tika 'un, eh, Wi?" "A kop (uku?), Nor!" "Oh, a gnu am l, Kip?" (aka "Kup"). "I rut, ae, Tama." To Ua: "Ua, O.K.?" Agna: "Hi, Gnat!" (aka "H.W."). "Atamua." To "Togs" Tell: "Let's go to Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapiki-

Kangaroo Island Kangaroo

In the Australian National Dictionary (edited by W.S. Ramson, 1988). [eff discovered a word-unit palindrome in an animal name: KANGAROO ISLAND KANGAROO. Jeff wonders if there are others out there, and he suggests some plausible coined names: SALMON LAKE SALMON. HAWK MOUNTAIN HAWK, SANDFLY STREAM SANDFLY, SEDGE MARSH SEDGE. Can you find another real-life example?

maungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu."

Games, l Was a Wise Mag

The March issue of Games magazine announced the winners of its "Palindromes with Personality" contest. I'd expected the first prize winner to be an inspired wonder work approaching the heights of Leigh Mercer's A MAN, A PLAN, A CANAL: PANAMA. Instead, the winning entry is clever, it sounds nice, it makes sense, but it isn't Hall of Fame material: LISA BONET ATE NO BASIL (by Douglas Fink of Norwalk CT). According to Games columnist Peter Gordon, it "includes the required name of a famous personality, and was selected for its sense, appropriateness, smoothness of syntax, and general interest." Out of more than 2000 palindromic entries, it won the \$500 air fare to anywhere - a high-flying palindrome indeed.

Ten runners up and 19 honorable mentions appear, too. Some of them, including the 8 that follow, seem more deserving of the laurels than the LISA/BASIL line. The last is a cheater's 'drome.

PLAN NO DAMN MADONNA LP. (...YAWN.) MADONNA FAN? NO DAMN WAY! MAN, OPRAH'S SHARP ON A.M. NEIL A. SEES ALIEN.

VANNA, WANNA V?

NORIEGA CAN IDEL, HELD IN A CAGE - IRON!

ARE WE NOT PURE? "NO, SIR," PANAMA'S MOODY NORIEGA BRAGS, "IT IS GARBAGE!" IRONY DOOMS A MAN: A PRISONER UP TO NEW ERA.

IF ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER WERE GAGGED, HIS PLEA FOR HELP

MIGHT SOUND LIKE "EKILG NIHTEM OSD NUOSTH GIMPLEH ROFA ELPS IHDEG GAGER EWREG GENEZ RAWHCSD LON RAF1!"

"We have just one question ... for many more of the 312 entrants who submitted not-too-clear 'sentences' that read the same backward and forward: 'Huh?'" So asks Mr. Gordon. Yet the following runners up and honorable mentions are perfectly not-too-clear. This isn't saying they are good or bad, just that they seem to lack the sense, appropriateness, smoothness of syntax, and/or general interest specified in the contest guidelines.

TON1 TENNILLE FELL IN NET. 1, NOT.

DAMN! I, AGASSI, MISS AGAIN! MAD!

"I'M RUNNIN'" -- NURMI.

"IS DON ADAMS MAD?" (A NOD.) "SI!"

HARPO SAW TAFT: "AH ... THAT FAT WAS OPRAH."

DEPARDIEU. GO RAZZ A ROGUE I DRAPED.

TARZAN RAISED A DESI ARNAZ RAT.

Anagrams With Personality

Last Kickshaws. I listed 25 palindromic sentences that used the names of 26 well-known people, real or fictional (NAN and RON were doubled up in one palindrome). For an anagrammatic follow-up, I've rearranged the letters to form words or phrases of those names, regardless of whether the results made sense. Further, no words in the palindromes were used in the anagrams. TUT and VENUS proved impossible, but the other 24 worked. Numbers 12, 15. and 17 fit the anagramees like a glove. How quickly can you figure out the original names? Note: some are first names or last names only, a few are both names, and a few are nicknames. In the process, I realized that NORIEGA is a circular reversal of IRON AGE, and WARHOL is an anagram of HARLOW. No doubt both gentlemen would've approved.

1 A DENT	9 GAPE AT PIT	17 NOISED
2 ANN	10 GO IN MORE	18 NOR
3 AS POE	11 HUBS	19 O, MESS
4 BAD, OR VAN	12 I, AN OGRE	20 SIR, RAID VAT
5 CLAW ALE	13 I'M VAIN! I'LL - I'LL -	- 21 TAR A FA
6 DEAL, MAN	14 LOW RAH	22 TO PAL
7 ER, VEER	15 MOD N A NA	23 TO MEN
8 EWE PEE	16 NO CAPE	24 YE, POPE

My Pen's Duo

... is an anagrammatic definition of PSEUDONYM. I've always admired people who could come up with great nom de plumes, and I've tried - Zeus knows I've tried - to come up with an anagram of my own name to sign my work. Alas, the best I've found are Eva D.. Dr. Avoidmice, Doc Rime, and a few others. Nothing that hits the spot. Anagrammatic pseudonyms aren't necessary, of course, but I'd prefer one anyway.

If you don't have a good alter ego, you can't pay to join the

club. Or, to put it palindromically: MY, NO DUES, PSEUDONYM. Then it occurred to me that the perfect pen name would be an anagram of PSEUDONYM. Yet even though the word is easily transposable. I haven't found a natural-sounding name in its letters. Instead, I decided to write an UNDYSPOEM - that is, "not abnormal verse" - titled MY SPUN ODE. It's an argument between SUE PONY, MD, and me about whether puns belong in odes. The title and the lines are anagrams of PSEUDONYM.

"My sun, dope, Dupe my son!" Sue Pony, MD, Puns my ode.

Yo! Pen's mud! My pun does. Pony mused: "'Up my nodes!" O, send up my Spud money! "Mod pun?" Yes! Puny modes.

"So upend my Mud's peony." PS: O, my nude Spun my ode.

Two-Thirds Shakespeare

Can you figure out the two messages that are hidden in this string of three-letter words (from Webster's 7th Collegiate)? Figure out either one, and the remaining letters will give you the other. The letters of the messages appear in the correct order. TOP BEE NOR NOB TIT LOB LET HAP TIL SAT HEY OUA RES TIT SON.

Golf Mystery

The day didn't bode well for the golfer. He could see the green, show the hall, and tell how he would hit it, but he couldn't know that the tiny shadow cast on the fairway was someone else's ball flying directly toward him. As it careened off his head, he wondered why nobody tried to warn him.

The mystery: what word can you attach to the beginning of eight words in the previous paragraph to change them to words with meanings having to do with the future, and what are the eight new words?

Panvocalic Homonyms

GORILLA and GUERILLA have the same thing in common as ADIEU and ADO. The word pairs are homonyms, and within each pair all five vowels appear. Can you find any other examples of pairs or trios that have all five vowels?

Bacronyms

WlN stood for Whip Inflation Now in Gerald Ford's era. The slogan's initial letters form its acronym, but its final letters form its bacronym: PNW. How many of these well-known acronyms can you identify from their bacronyms? They are arranged in alphabetic order by acronym. Can you figure them out as they stand? It's difficult, but with the clues at the end, it's easy.

1	SS	7	NDE	13	LNTDE	19	DTM	25	RGE
2	GNNS	8	LSEN	14	HCYN	20	SDN	26	YASS
3	LEY	9	LGN	15	LECN	21	ZLST	27	DM
4	ESK	10	RRN	16	LTS	22	YNYS	28	DSLCLN
5	LST	11	UXN	17	TSN	23	GMY	29	DSL
6	AYN	12	ONR	18	LNDE	24	KDSY	30	SNS

Clues: 1-drinking org, 2-college slang, 3-spy org, 4-television org, 5-women's law, 6-telepathy, 7-temporality, 8-money org, 9-real estate dept, 10-office term, 11-racist org, 12-movie company, 13-civil rights org, 14-treaty group, 15-sports org, 16-arts org, 17-elementary school org, 18-Canadian law enforcement org, 19-Latin term. 20-baseballese, 21-French term, 22-animal org, 23-crowded, 24-workers' phrase, 25-affection, 26-school name, 27-country, 28-international org, 29-news agency, 30-soldier's org.

Negative

One more bacronym: which famous 20th-century leader was NOT?

Saw Points In Scrabble

Peter Newby offers this puzzle to Scrabblers: "Jack and Jill played a game of Scrabble. Jack began with a score of 26 points from his rack of the letters ADDIMMY. Jill, using five tiles from her rack of CCHQSTT, replied with a score of 19 points. Jack noticed that if he played the letters AESV, utilizing a blank tile for either A or E, he could announce his results by stating a six-word proverb. Bearing in mind that Jack could have scored 32 or 34 points had he positioned his original word more advantageously, can you produce the exact state of play which makes Jack's observation possible? What is the proverb?

Punctual Puzzle

Another puzzle from Peter: punctuate the following so that it makes complete sense.

THAT THAT IS IS THAT THAT IS NOT IS NOT IS NOT THAT IT IT IS

Coralvillians and Morristonians

Jeff Grant writes "You may have met all Peter Newby's Coralvillians, but have you come across some of these from the seamier side of town (the CORALVILLAINS): ORL. ALLVICE and CARLO EVILL. Or the local 'ladies' ALICE V. ROLL and L.R. LOVILACE (Linda?)?"

The editor says "I tried to bend Morristown to my will the way Peter did Coralville, but with indifferent success: MR. I.N. ROSTOW, TOM W. NORRIS, MS. TONI W. ORR, MRS. I.W. ORTON, plus the somewhat fanciful MR. ORSON WIT, MR. WIN ROOST, NORM 1. WORST, and TIMOR SWORN."

Of Of and Others

"For the Love of Of," a poem appearing in the last Kickshaws,

used surnames made of prepositions and conjunctions. In his asyet-unpublished Dictionary of Two-Letter Words, Jeff investigated two-letter surnames in telephone directories of Sydney, Melbourne, Toronto, Montreal, Chicago, Manhattan and Auckland. These phone books had 202 different two-letter surnames, including TO, OF, OR, IN, AT and BY, but not UP or IF.

It's Not Time, People

Which women's magazine has a name beginning with the name of a humor magazine, ending with the name of another women's magazine, and containing the names (separated by other letters) of a third women's magazine and a men's magazine?

Pick a Number, Any Number

Write it down on a sheet of paper, and write its number name below it. How many digits does it have? Without knowing your number, I can give you a number with the same number of digits which, unlesds we both picked the same number, has (1) more syllables in its number name, and (2) as many or more letters in its number name. Now code the letters in your number name by their positions in the alphabet (A=1, B=2, ...) and add up those values. My number has a greater total. Can you tell me what number I am thinking of?

The Consecutive Letter Problem

Chop up the alphabet into bigrams AB, CD, ... YZ. Now find the shortest word containing each pair of letters. From Webster's 7th Collegiate, the shortest answer (one of many) has 40 letters: BA COD EF HOG JIB LEK MAN OPE QUIRE SIT VUG WAX ZANY. Or begin with B and wrap around at Z-A like this: BC, DE, ... ZA. The shortest answer now has 39 letters, exactly 50 per cent greater than the alphabet itself: CAB DEN FOG HI JERK MIL NO QUIP SIR UT VOW SEXY ADZ.

The problem: divide the alphabet into larger consecutive segments of equal length (with a shorter final segment in most cases) for which the shortest word set has fewer than 39 letters. Try trigrams: ABC, DEF, ..., YZ. If you use a different dictionary, check any answers against your dictionary's results for the two bigram divisions.

To extend the problem, separate the alphabet into ascending (or descending) segments of arbitrary length and try to find a shorter answer (one with fewer total letters). The editor notes that a special case of this problem (the letters must be in alphabetic order in the words) was discussed in the Aug 1979 and Nov 1984 issues of Word Ways.

A Toyota's A Toyota's A Toyota

President Bush put the blame on the Japanese for causing the recession in the U.S. I don't know much about politics, but a quick logological scan of the economy using trans-2-deletions (sub-

tract two letters from a word and rearrange) lends support to his accusation. Remove CO from ECONOMY and rearrange the remaining letters to spell MONEY. Remove MO from MONEY and rearrange the remaining letters to spell YEN. There's MONEY in the ECONOMY, but YEN in MONEY. The solution? We should all ride unicycles. Using a trans-2-addition on ECONOMY, can you figure out why?

What to Transdelete the Baby

When I told my sister, Delaine, that my son's name, Daniel, was a transdeletion of her name, she said, "Transwhat?" I explained that transdeleting meant dropping a letter and switching the remaining letters around to get the new name. She was intrigued and asked "What would you name a second child?" A good question. How far can one go in raising a transdeletion family? DELAINE, DANIEL, LINDA (or DIANE), DINA, IDA, DI, and 1. This series could begin one step higher with DANIELLE, two steps higher with DINABELLE (a reasonable coinage), three steps higher with BELINDA LEE (a double first name), and four steps higher with DEBBIE NELLA. Can you translate a bigger family?

Why's Guy

My son, now 3 1/3 years old, is in the "why" stage of learning. He's discovered that he can keep asking that question no matter what answer is given. The other night, he caught me by surprise when he concluded a round of "why's" by asking "Do you know what 'why' is?" I said, "No, what is it?" He said, "'Why' is a letter."

The Upside-Down Mirror

I stood there rightside-up Reflecting inside-out. The mirror was upside-down. Of that I had no doubt.

I sat there leftside-down Reflecting outside-in. The mirror was downside-up, But that should not have been.

I grabbed the faulty mirror And twirled it twice around Till upside-in was out And inside-up was down.

Noah's Aardvark

Noah's Aardvark: A Novel in Verse by Jules Rothenstein floods the page with language play. Imagine Lord Byron writing Sesame Street in the manner of "Don Juan". Imagine letters having sex, giving birth, and populating the world. In the beginning was O, the "Eve of Prose and Verse and pithy eloquence". Letters are divided into male, female, youthful, and elder, and words are described as Heterolexics, Gay, and Lexbianic. It's an allegory

on the Fall of Modern Man presented as a typographic fantasy, sometimes playful and fun, sometimes moralistic and didactic. Normal English prevails until Chapter 10, where language becomes condensed into jargon, slang and abbreviations, a climax unlike that in any other book. That final chapter begins

Lth 2 sqndr xs RAM ASAP...&, ad naus., l'l brng U q.ly 2 th 4 U'l jst's q.ly KTS.

lf you are a connoisseur of the quirky, you will fall under this book's spell (University Editions, 59 Oak Lane, Spring Valley, Huntington WV 25704; \$8 in paperback).

Alphabet Soup

A word is a word And a letter's a letter: With alphabet soup You couldn't do better.

All About Art

A.K.A., a new aesthetic journal, presents art articles written in unusual ways. For instance, this essay, titled "O, Rococo, Pop, Op, Dada: Can One Be?" by Lila Nabob has an unusual structure guiding the words. What is it?

Go! Go for Art! (I, timid, editing now: one <u>never</u> prefers raw art.) Rococo can act, color a rebel's limit. Its astatic inanition on a new era ran agog! Pop, Dada had idle law, and now, on an evening's genesis, Pop is I, Dada was I. Severe rococo colors run up a paraded Op oil in an ivied end. Naiads defer arty triremes as did no Nereid in one dead age Gogol also saw as asinine (never art!). O, try Rococo. Civil? A lava on our unanimity? The humus is Op. On an even initial art, reveal a titan at it: Pop, Dada can only level a low ore -Rococo, con of a far art. Rococo, can art rising now on one be?

Cyclicycles

A cyclic transposal moves a letter from the end of a word to the start, or from the start to the end, to form a new word. For example, this self-referential pair: move the D from END to the start to get DEN, and move the S from START to the end to get TARTS. A bordello could be called a TARTS' DEN. Some sets have three or more words (ASP, SPA, PAS), and some have four or more letters in their words (SEXARTICULATE-EXARTICULATES is the longest pair).

A cyclicycle is a sentence using a set of cyclic transposals in sequence. One longer two-word example that expresses the human condition: l EVOLVED TO DEVOLVE. Using sets from Dmitri Borgmann's Language on Vacation, here are some cyclicyclic sentences:

Eat? l ate. Tea! Levi was evil, vile. l rave: "Aver Vera!" The stable had tables - the ablest. Elea's lease rested by an easel. A stripe on the tripes indicates the ripest.

Under the Covers

When I was in high school, I hung out at the Regal Hamburger Shop, playing pinball machines and listening to the jukebox. My best friend, Tim, and I found out about a surprisingly funny bit of musical wordplay: simply add the phrase "under the covers" to any song title. We spent a Regal afternoon going over title after title, trying to top each other and roaring in laughter at the results. "Twist and Shout under the covers." "A Walk in the Black Forest under the covers." "I Can't Get No Satisfaction under the covers." "Wipe-Out under the covers." It seems to work best with rock 'n' roll, but other types of music have titles that make it. too. "Rhapsody in Blue under the covers." "Beethoven's Fifth under the covers." "Ring of Fire under the covers." Nor does it have to be limited to music. Literature offers its own possibilities: "I Sing the Body Electric under the covers." "The Sun Also Rises under the covers." Try it. It's good, clean fun.

Everybody's Doing It

Anagrammatists do it all jumbled up.
Palindromists do it backwards.
Lipogrammatists do it without e's.
Rebus makers do it with pictures.
Word square formists do it with shapes.
Univocalists do it just one way.
Pangrammatists do it from A to Z.
Punsters do it soundly.
Crossword puzzlers do it horizontally and vertically.
Riddlers do it how?
Logicians do it, ergo...
Onomasticians do it in name only.

Daphne Through the Computer Screen

This is a sequel to "Daphne in Woodland" appearing in the Aug 1989 Kickshaws. Based on the capitalized words, can you determine what kind of list she was reading this time?

It was a Lazy July 13th. Daphne was eating Little Pieces of Whale, when she noticed the Enigma poking its head through the monitor. She climbed up the keyboard, pushed through the screen's Polimer surface with her Fingers, and entered the Pixel world.

"Hurry!" said a Love Child with a Star Dot on her forehead. "The Wolfman is coming from Wisconsin."

Suddenly, the Love Child screamed. The Dot Killer in the Form of Fu Manchu had grabbed her.

"Do-Nothing!" he rasped. "I am the Destructor. I am the Dark Avenger. I am--"

"I'm not Cinderella," said Daphne, "but--Sorry!"

With that, she brought a Horse Boot down on the BadGuy's Brain.

He did the Devil's Dance and disappeared.

"You must be Striker," the Love Child said.

"No, my Nomenclature is Daphne. I'm the daughter of the Seventh Son of a Kennedy, but I'm not sure which of the Boys. Tell me, how do I get back to Azusa?"

"Azusa? Is that a Perfume from Korea? You know, the kind worn by Monxla?"

"Monxla?" Daphne was puzzled. "Is that a Label for Chaos?"

"Monxla \underline{is} Chaos, but Monxla-B is even worse! No Goblin can stop Monxla-B. No Gremlin can escape the Flash of his Mirror."

"Oh, Frogs!" Daphne said.

"You--you said the F-word."

Just then, AirCop the Warrior, the Hero of Holland, the Bandit of Damage, the Invader of Alabama, arrived by Mule in Subliminal space.

"ZeroHunt," he announced. "I've come on a ZeroHunt."

"Where's your Beeper?" the Love Child asked.

"I have no Beeper. My last one was destroyed by Voronezh the Spyer."

"Flash!" came a Tiny voice. "Father Christmas, Darth Vader, and Hitchcock have just attacked the Empire!"

"That's Justice for you," AirCop said, glancing to his left.

"Who are you talking to?" Daphne asked. "I don't see anyone."

"Shh! It's Murphy the Mosquito. If you're quiet, you can listen to him, too."

Daphne heard the buzzing. Murphy was humming "New Sunday" to the Microbes in her ear:

A Love Child with a Guppy Said "Gotcha" to the Frogs. A Joker on a puppy Barked Fellowship to dogs.

A Whale filled with Terror Cried "Lucifer!" and wept. A Horse that made an Error Became a Mule and crept.

A Bandit with a Beeper Spoke Spanish to a bird. And Daphne by the creeper Just uttered the F-word!

"Like it?" the Mosquito asked.

"Pretty good for a Music Bug," said Daphne, "but can you sing a Hymn?"

"Never on a Sunday," the Mosquito buzzed. "Happy New Year!"

The Love Child shrugged. "Oh, well, he can't be the Christmas Violator."

"Maybe he's a Phantom," Daphne suggested, wondering whether she should Shake the Pest.

"The Phantom of Oropax!" the Love Child hissed. "He wears Ghost Boots! Oh, give me Liberty or give me Lisbon!"

"He's no Casper," AirCop growled. "He'll make a Burger out of a single Guppy."

"Bljec! I feel sick," Daphne said.

She wanted to go home. That was her Best Wish, and it carried her from Scott's Valley to Alameda. The Phantom of Oropax couldn't get through the screen, because the Color control had a big RedX on it. Suddenly—Crash!

Daphne fell out of the computer and woke up with her head on the keyboard. When she opened her eyes, she saw a small stack of papers.

"Oh, I must've dozed off," she said, shoving the papers to the floor. "Reading that list is enough to give anyone a nightmare!"

It's Ciao Time

Harry Partridge concluded a letter to me with the phrase "It's ciao time". Later, when I fed Puppy Chow to Sam, our temporary dog. I said, "It's chow time!" Then I got Harry's closing pun, and I nearly dropped the bowl of dogfood on the poor beast's head. It got me thinking. Hellos and Goodbyes can be tailored to fit the individual — for instance, a store owner saying "Good Buy". Here are twenty more, with their speakers in parentheses:

HIGH THERE (Mountaineer) FAIR WELL (Oil driller) HELL, OH (Devil) GOOD NIGHT (Oueen) GOOD MOURNING (Funeral director) BE SCENE YOU (Movie star) HAPPY TRIALS (Lawver) TAKE ID EASY (Psychiatrist) CALM AGAIN (Hysteric) CHERRY OWE (Loan officer) TILL NECKS' TIME (Lovers) SEE YOU LAID 'ER (Man's friend) HOW'D HE DO (Woman's friend) TAKE AIR (Lifeguard) HAVE AN ICE DAY (Skater) NICE TO MEAT YOU (Butcher) HAIRY BACK (Barber) HEY, WATTS HAPPENING (Electrician) BUN VOYAGE (Baker)