

KICKSHAWS

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Readers are invited to send their own favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws Editor (new address: PO Box 3382, Iowa City IA 52244). All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue. Guest editors will appear occasionally.

Political Anagram-A-Rama

An anagram is a word or phrase whose letters rearrange to form another word or phrase. Politicians often rearrange their words and phrases in an election year. Instead of listening to the politicians, let the issues speak for themselves - anagrammatically:

AN AIDS EPIDEMIC i.e., sad pain, medic
AMERICAN BUSINESSES rubes in as nice a mess
AMERICAN DREAM damn crime area
BALANCING THE BUDGETS beg, cheat big, stun land
BREAST IMPLANTS permit? bans last
COLD WAR OVER cover a world
THE EDUCATION PRESIDENT I pretended to teach in U.S.
EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT mad men requesting halt
THE GULF WAR we hurt flag
GUN CONTROL LAWS guns crown a toll
HOMELESS PEOPLE some see hell, Pop
INDEPENDENT ROSS PEROT O, spender - not president
OLLIE NORTH'S DEALS tall hero nods, lies
PANAMA'S NORIEGA a man? iron-age sap!
POLITICIAN I.. I.. I can plot
SADDAM HUSSEIN OF IRAQ man of raid is squashed
SOVIET UNION O, no! invite U.S.
STEALTH BOMBER let's bomb Earth
SUPREME COURT corrupt? sue 'em!
TELEVISION TV is one lie
TEN THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT none found at this stoplight
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE plenty are out (amen!)
THE US PRESIDENTIAL RACES pride these nut-case liars?
WAR ON DRUGS or draw guns?

Wordplay 101

Last summer, I taught a weekend class on wordplay for the Iowa Summer Writing Festival. Nine students attended a total of ten hours on Saturday and Sunday. During the meetings, we discussed many different wordplay forms, but the main focus was

on anagrams, palindromes and puns - the Big Three. We also wrote wordplay in class: alphabet sentences with each word starting with consecutive letters of the alphabet, and a collaborative effort using the blackboard to transpose the word TRANSPOSED to form a poem. Some of the results:

A black cat dropped every funny gag here. It just kept la ma-dame Natal operating purringly. Quite recently she told utterly violent word xylophones. Yes. Zzzzzz. [Mary Helfrich]

A boy came down every fertile green hill in just knickers, leaving more neighbors over purple, quiet restrained sandhills, therefore uttered very witty xtra yearling zebras [unknown]

All brash caterpillars do enjoy fancy green heliotropes in January, Kangaroos love munching new oleanders. Pandas quench raw straw thirsts under very wet xanthes, yelping zealously [Lavonne Seifert]

A baby camel, dashing eagerly for grain, hurt its jerky knee lightly, managing nicely on pretty queer roller skates to undulate very well, Xavier yakking "Zounds!" [Lois Muehl]

Two of the participants found a large number of anagrams. Lavonne Seifert anagrammed his name, and Deanna Segebart chose the word GENERATION to transpose:

earn finest love, leave forest inn, note fern's alive, roan feline vest, revel in fast one, never-fail stone, raven notes life, nestle for a vine, not eleven fairs, novel train fees, Anne refits love, fire salon event

great one in, O great nine, great neon I, great in eon, a neon tiger, gone in rate, gee not Iran, ten go in ear, on a green it, tone in rage, tie neon rag, tear gone in, one grin ate, eat one ring, rein not age, O greet Nina

Kim Petersen wrote a punning poem on her surname:

Petersen is a common Danish name
That brings to mind the time of Viking fame.
Many a warrior I proudly call my kin,
But what I want to know is what was Peter's Sin?

Katie Fischer wrote a few sentences punning on city names: SHEBOYGAN he had a sex-change, but now she's a boy again, IOWA CITY I thought my taxes were paid up, but I owe a city \$3000, PHILADELPHIA Phil and Delphia's bell is cracked. She also made up the parody song-title "I left my cart in San Francisco."

Lois Muehl came up with the provocative palindrome NO, NOT NOW, OTTO - WON TON ON, and the anagram RESCUE HELICOPTER: THE POLICE SECURER. She wrote a poem using anagrams on the name ROSS PEROT, but Perot has faded from the political scene and the poem is no longer immortal.

We also developed a list of colorful body parts: green thumb, redneck, blueblood, brown-nose, bluebeard, pinkeye, yellow-belly,

blackface, whiteface, greenhorn, redeye, blackhead, whitehead, redhead, greenback, purple heart, greybeard, black eye. Any others?

Finally, a collaboration poem using transposals of TRANSPOSED, by Grace Combs, Mary Helfrich, Deanna Segebart, Lois Muehl, Lavonne Seifert, Katie Fischer, Kim Petersen and myself: The name is PROSE STAND:

Snead's Port	Stored pans	Press on, Tad,
Entraps sod.	Stop! Snared...	Dress to nap.
Sons parted.	Pets ran sod,	Despots ran!
Rest, sap. Nod.	Tons spared.	So ends trap.
Don's repast	Don at press	Sot panders,
Parts, 's. done.	Strands Poe.	Opens darts.
So rap dents	Rats sped on,	So pad rents,
Pat's red son.	Prat ends so.	So den parts.
Send pastor!	Spears don't	Aster ponds,
Red son spat!	Nod at press.	Sand or pest?
So pens dart,	No red spats	Sod parents
So spend, Rat.	To pad dress?	Nod - Pa's rest.
	Dan's poster	
	Nosed traps.	
	Tad, press on	
	Node straps.	

The Magic Crossword Puzzle

According to Jeremiah Farrell and David Wright, their crossword puzzle must have black magic behind it. Before working it, you have to toss your lucky coin and note whether it lands HEADS or TAILS. Now, begin the puzzle:

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				

DOWN

ACROSS

- 1 The result of your toss
- 2 Pertaining to part of the eye
- 3 Tastelessly showy

- 1 Draw close together
- 2 Female given name
- 3 Trio from a well-known quintet
- 4 Certain male
- 5 Cunning

Two-Word Titles

Oren Dalton receives an advertising weekly called The Thrifty Nickel. In it, each non-commercial ad is given a "title" in bold face formed by its first two words. The reader can spot-check the column for items of interest, but, as Oren notes, "some of the results are quite unexpected. Here is a sample of two-word

titles from [the June 25 1992] issue, which, to me, have a special charm. I challenge the reader to imagine what the ad is about." For answers, see Answers and Solutions.

SACRIFICE SOFA...	GOD'S SECRET...
WANTED DEAD...	INFLATABLE DRAGON...
ABSOLUTELY WEIRD...	URGENT GOVERNMENT...
ADMIRAL SIDE...	KING AND...
RANDALL HEAD...	GORGEOUS HOPE...
U.S. AIR...	BEAUTIFULLY SIMPLE...
METAL AIR...	3/4 STUDENT...
SPACIOUS EXECUTIVE...	REMOTE SINGLE...
OUR PHONE...	CAMELOT ONE...
TV, HANDMADE...	FANTASTIC 5...
WANTED: BETTY...	ADORABLE 6...
STEPFORD WIFE...	CUTE 7...

From Love to Hate, From Synonym to Anagram

In the last Kickshaws, Peter Newby presented a 44-step chain of words that connected LOVE to HATE by means of an anagram and synonym progression. He wondered if it could be shortened by other routes. Mary Lois Dennison has found two:

22 steps: LOVE (regard) GRADER (marker) REMARK (aver) RAVE (rant) TARN (pool) LOOP (ring) GRIN (smile) SLIME (grease) AGREES (votes) STOVE (range) ANGER (heat) HATE

16 steps: LOVE (regard) GRADER (marker) REMARK (note) TONE (shade) HEADS (tops) POST (pole) LOPE (amble) BLAME (heat) HATE

Friendlier, Friendliest

A friendlier word changes letters one-by-one to spell out different words, and the new letters spell out a bonus word. Mary Lois Dennison has found the first six-letter friendlier word, with surprisingly common words (from the Random House dictionary):

CANTER: Panter cEnter caRter canNer cantOr canteD = PERNOD

Peter Newby writes "The Kickshavian extension of friendly into friendlier words suggests that the friendliest word exists. May I offer words with the capacity to revert to themselves? In effect, such words form a self-reversion chain in which only the 'friendliest' word is repeated:

CAT: Hat cOt caD = HOD: Cod hAd hoT = CAT

CAT: Rat cUt caM = RUM: Cum rAm ruT = CAT

CAT: Fat cIt caG = FIG: Cig fAg fiT = CAT"

Bettor's Paradox

"I'll bet you a dollar you won't give me a dollar to keep," Bob says to Sue. She accepts the bet and gives him a dollar. Thus he loses the bet and returns the dollar. But now he wins the bet, and she gives him the dollar. And so Bob and Sue pass the buck back and forth for the rest of their lives.

Eleven-M Poemmmmmmmmmmm

Ogden Nash wrote a short poem about a LAMA and a LLAMA, concluding with "But I'll bet you a silk pyjama / You never saw a three-L lama." Fanning out the letters in words seems a good poetic technique, and it appears in this poem:

On a one-D day,
 A two-E bee
 Chased a three-U gnuuu
 Up a four-E treeee
 To a five-I hiiiiive
 Near a six-X boxxxxxx
 Where a seven-S ssssssssnake
 Picked the eight-L llllllllocks,
 But a nine-R bearrrrrrrrrr
 Smelled the ten-H hhhhhhhhhhhoney
 And hopped on it quick
 As a twelve-N bnnnnnnnnnnnnny.

Patriotic Numbers

Stand up for the number system! Wave the flag of numerical nationalism! Every red-blooded American will be proud to know that exactly 99.9 per cent of the words for the natural numbers are patriotic. Can you figure out why?

Transaddition Family Tree

In the May 1992 Kickshaws, I listed eleven names of a transadition family by taking a name, adding a letter, and rearranging the letters to form a new name. Peter Newby branched out from the tenth name and carried the names up to the 24-letter level. Here is the full list, which originally stopped with DEBBIE NELLA but is replaced below with BRENDA ELLIE:

I, Di, Ida, Dina, Linda, Daniel, Delaine, Danielle, Dinabelle, Belinda Lee, Brenda Ellie, Brenda Nellie, Adrienne Belle, Brenda Ena Ellie, Brenda Eva Nellie, Brenda Elvira Rene, Brenda Valerie Rene, Albertine Di Vera Rene, Albertine Ida Vera Rene, Albertine Lida Vera Rene, Albertine Linda Vera Rene, Albertine Minerva Darlene, Albertine Dina Vera Marlene, Albertine Linda Vera Marlene

Tail-End Acronyms

In the February 1992 issue, the word **bacronym** was used to mean an acronym of the last letters of a phrase, such as LST for equal rightS amendmenT. Don Hauptman pointed out that the word already has two other meanings. To avoid confusion, they can be called **tail-end acronyms** instead.

Peter Newby and an editor of Games Magazine both suggested that the concept would work better if the last letters formed a word or an acronym instead of a new set of letters. From Chambers Dictionary, Peter provided these examples with explanations:

ABM The Anti Ballistic Missile finishes up on ICE
 GCWM The General Conference of Weights and Measures always
 results in LESS
 DPM Work for your Diploma in Psychological Medicine, and you
 end up on the ALE
 MTB The Motor Torpedo Boat will eventually ROT
 RPI Go through the Retail Price Index to discover the joy of LEX
 SCF Persevere with the Save the Children Fund, but to what END?
 SDC The Single Data Converter eventually reaches one's EAR
 VSO What else can you finally say to the Voluntary Service
 Overseas but YES?

Peter also suggests Initial Conclusions, in which the last letters
 of people's initials are used (such as NOT for Franklin Delano
 Roosevelt). He coined a couple of off-color examples, Rhoda Lois
 Jones and Jeff Ira Peter Blunt. The most extreme name, though,
 would be Brigit Irene Rita Thomsett-Heath, going, as it does,
 from BIRTH to DEATH in one perfectly feasible name.

The Sands of Time

S A N D Using his triplet method for converting one word into
 A N D another, Peter Newby has constructed a literary egg-
 A N timer that lets the SAND trickle, letter by letter, from
 A top to bottom, where it reforms to the original word.
 A D Logology meets concrete poetry!
 S A D
 S A N D

Anagram Marital Counseling

Peter Newby mentioned the use of anagrams in fortune-telling
 way back in ancient Greece. As an example, he said "A man,
 say DAVID MORICE, would consult a seer and tell him he was hav-
 ing problems with his marriage. What should he do? The seer would
 shuffle the letters of DAVID MORICE and come up with the advice
 to DIVORCE MAID."

So I did. And now, as Mike Morton likewise predicted in the
 last Kickshaws, my letters shuffle to I AM DIVORCED.

Cryptickles

Mike Reiss writes "I'll wager that there is a word, common
 phrase, or well-known title that will cryptically clue every letter
 of the alphabet. I invite readers to help fill out the alphabet
 - we're over halfway there. Clues like 'the capital of [country]'
 could easily fill all the remaining slots, but I'm looking for diver-
 sity and grace."

A "The Last of Sheila", B the start of a beautiful friendship,
 C artichoke heart, E "The End of Innocence", G midnight
 H bottom of the ninth, M "The Thirteenth Letter", N solon,
 O "Beethoven's Sixth", R Central America, S "Last of the
 Mohicans", V civic center, X "Deep in the Heart of Texas",
 Y the Fourth of July

Why Did Poe Try Poetry?

In English, sight rhymes and sound rhymes are often like apples and oranges. They don't have much to do with each other, but even so the effect can be tasty. Take a bite of this poem by Mike:

I wish I were a Yankee, stepping up to the baseline,
Or a Channel swimmer, greased up with Vaseline,
Or a grim entomber, a pious Catholic,
A footloose beachcomber, an alcoholic.
But I am just a poet, and I must cry, "Why me?"
Because though my lines end the same, they never ever rhyme.

Lover in Clover

If you'd like another sample, I've whipped up a spicy hot limerick that's sprinkled with various pronunciations of OVE and OVER (HOVE is the past tense of HEAVE):

There once was a dove from Dover
Who hove as she started to hover.
When she'd rove from Rover
In a cove under cover,
He'd move! He was such a fast mover.

Trigram Heads and Tails

Leonard Gordon compiled a list of words ("just found them on my computer") each of which begins and ends with the same trigram. Tetragram heads-and-tails words are scarce; Leonard has found only three: ABRACadABRA, OKEYdoKEY, TARAtanTARA, Pentagrams are even rarer: UNDERgroUNDER. Others?

AFTershAFT, ANTicipANT, ANTicoagulANT, ANTioxidANT,
ANTiozonANT, ASTroblast, BEDauBED, BEDumbBED, BEGlerBEG,
BELiBEL, BEYlerBEY, DERiDER, DESuetuDES, DVAndVA,
ENTailmENT, ENTanglemENT, ENTertainmENT, ENThrallmENT,
ENThronemENT, ENTicemENT, ENTitlemENT, ENTombmENT,
ENTrancemENT, ENTrapmENT, ENTrenchmENT, ENTrustmENT,
FELaFEL, GALanGAL, HAWksHAW, HOTsHOT, INGatherING,
INGulfING, INSulINS, IONizatiON, JIGaJIG, MAHarMAH,
MAStocytoMAS, MESdaMES, MESoMES, MICrocOSMIC, MICrocycHeMIC,
MICrotoMIC, MISHmIS, NICotiNIC, OKEydoKE, OPEidoscOPE,
OUTshOUT, OVERlove, PHYsiogRAPHY, PSYcholePSY, RASboRAS,
REDeliverED, REDiscoverED, RESocRES, RESpiRES, RESToRES,
REStructuRES, RIXatRIX, TALbuTAL, TESSellaTES, THYMopaTHY,
TORMentOR, TZArITZA, UNDERgroUND, UnderwoUND

Square Deal

What do these word squares have in common? Are they acrostics?

S A T E D	H E A R T	F R E T	T H E
A T O N E	E M B E R	R E A R	T O E
T O A S T	A B U S E	E A S E	E E L
E N S U E	R E S I N	T R E E	
D E T E R	T R E N D		

Measuring Up

Nine common measurements have been made uncommon with the addition of two to four prefixes. All but one now have the same thing in common. What is it? Which is the maverick?

kilomillisecond	hectocentiliter	femtopterakilowatt
micromegaton	gigamicroampere	attomegamegamegahertz
terapicobyte	decidekagram	dekahectokilomicrovolt

Do You Smoke After Sex?

This line, from a linguistics text, illustrates how two meanings of the same word, SMOKE, affect a sentence. But such a line is so poetic it deserves more – a poem driven by a pun.

Do you smoke after sex?
 Does your body catch on fire?
 Do the smoke rings rise in columns
 Going higher, higher, higher?
 Do they float out through the windows
 Sending clouds up to the sky?
 Do your neighbors call the firemen
 When the sparks begin to fly?
 Does the firetruck run red lights
 Causing countless highway wrecks?
 Do you really need a cigarette
 To smoke after sex?

Parallel State Squares

This single three-square is made of state name abbreviations. If you read the first letter of each abbreviation in any row or column, the three letters spell a word; likewise for the second letter. For instance, CAN and ALE are spelt out in the first row (and column). Variants can be formed by substituting GA, MA, PA or WA for CA. All words are in Webster's Second. Can anyone map out a parallel four-square or a parallel double three-square?

CA AL NE
 AL DE OK
 NE OK ME

Anagram Equations

ELEVEN + TWO = TWELVE + ONE is the only known example in English of an equation whose numbers add up correctly and whose words on opposite sides of the equal sign are anagrams of each other. In the February **Word Ways**, Lee Sallows wrote of discovering a pair of anagram equations in Spanish: UNO + CATORCE = CUATRO + ONCE and DOS + TRECE = TRES + DOCE. Incredibly, they both sum up to 15. Allowing equations to use more numbers and other math operations, more complex formulae can be found. That is, one set of different number words can be anagrammed into a different set and then placed into a mathematical formula that makes both sides equal, as in the following equation. Can you find any others?

THIRTEEN + TWENTY - ONE = (NINETY/TWO) - TEN - THREE

Mad Math

Look over the following two number series. If you can figure out the principle behind Series A, you won't have too much of a problem in working the math problems beneath it (the first one is answered for you). The next set of ten numbers is from Series B, which should be easy to figure out after learning the meaning of Series A. Both series can be continued to a much greater length. An unanswered question: if the numbers from A and B were placed in one-to-one correspondence as they occur, which pair would have the greatest numerical difference?

Series A: 1 4 3 11 15 13 17 24 23 73 101 104 103 111 115 113 117
 124 123 173 473 373 1104 1103 1111 1115 1113 1117 1124 1123 1173
 1473 1373 4373 3373 11373 15373 13373 17373 24373 23373 73373 101373
 104373 103373 111373 115373 113373 117373 124373 123373 173373
 473373 373373

A. $1 + 1 = 11$

B. $8 - 5 =$

C. $3 \times 3 =$

D. $1117/1 =$

E. $3 + 4 =$

F. $113373/24 =$

G. $13 \times 17 =$

H. $1 + 3 + 4 =$

I. $1117 - 124 =$

J. $15^2 =$

Series B: 10 9 60 90 70 66 96 10000000000 10000000000000
 9000000000000

Numberspell

SEVENTEEN EIGHT VIGINTILLION EIGHT NINE TWO EIGHT EIGHT NINE EIGHT is not my telephone number. What is this series? Can you find a longer series having the same property?

Rename That Word

In the last Kickshaws, Howard Richler provided several words that can be subdivided into names. He disallowed EDWARDIAN (EDWARD + IAN) because it was formed from EDWARD. Jeff Grant says that it can be included by redividing it into ED + WARD + IAN. Jeff has also found four-name examples DES ALI NAT ED and EMA NAT ION AL (Ion Tiriach is an ex-Armenian tennis player/coach). His nom-de-force is a five-name word, all of whose names can be found in Evelyn Wells' What to Name the Baby. The quintword: DE CON TAM INA TED.

Logological Joke

Jeff asks "Did you hear about the dyslexic agnostic insomniac? He lay awake at night wondering if there really was a Dog."

Charade Poem

GOD'S OWN A charade is a word or phrase that can be spaced.
 GOD SOWN to form a different phrase. The letters stay in the
 GENES IS same order (SOAP OPERA becomes SO A POP ERA).
 GENESIS The poem at the left was created by Angus James.

Anagram Riddle

"D'Y'SEE DEEPLY BUSY, HALF-CRAZY GNOMES PUPPY-HOP?" asks Angus. Can you figure out the original list of seven words before they were anagrammed into that question? Clue: they miss the cold, pale maiden.

Double Dactyls

Isabelle L. Farnham has written several double dactyls, a complex form of poetry that requires the use of a double dactylic word in the second line of the second stanza. A double dose of Isabelle's double dactyls:

Alice in Wonderland	Emily Dickinson
Wandered down under and	Might be the only one
Met up with critters quite	Squirreling her stuff away
Strange to her eyes.	Under her bed.
"I can't believe I see	Due to what just could be
Atypicality!	Egocentricity,
Everything talks!" she said.	I much prefer to fill
"What a surprise!"	Notebooks, instead.

Anagram-Unit Palindromes

In this subclass of word-unit palindromes, words in opposite positions from the centerpoint are anagrams of each other.

These on bed, Deb? No sheet
 Mona struck Dan. Scar cars and trucks, Noam?
 Night's rainiest times smite inertia's things
 Sandworms (ate) swordsman
 Unfurl now! I (look). I won urnful

Found Reversals

Found Poems are texts taken from newspapers, magazines and other sources arranged in lines and presented as poems. Similarly, Found Reversals are segments of literary works that can be arranged word-by-word backwards and still make sense. One-line or two-line Found Reversals occur in many of Shakespeare's sonnets. Try out the following from Sonnets 5, 8, 11 and 144:

Everywhere bareness and o'ersnow'd beauty
 Gone, quite. Leaves lusty, and frost with sap check'd.

Joy in delights! Joy, not war. Sweets with sweets:
 Sadly, music thou hear'st. Why hear? To music!

Decay, cold, and age, folly without this
 Increase and beauty. Wisdom lives herein.

Pride, foul her with purity, his wooing.

Sonnet 66 is unlike any other sonnet in Shakespeare. It's a word-unit reversal from end to beginning. Was it intentional on the Bard's part? Shakespeare left two clues. First, the sonnet's palindromic number suggests reading it backwards. Second, the number, turned upside-down, refers to Sonnet 99, where he seems

to refer back to his accomplishment in writing 66: "The forward violet thus did I chide."

Reversal Definitions

Webster's Second Unabridged defines LION ANT as 'an ant lion'. With that technique, dictionaries not only save space but bring a previously undreamt-of consistency to English. Some definitions that Webster missed:

COWBOY a boy cow	UPHOLD a hold-up
PLUG NICKEL a nickel plug	UPSHOT shot up
COLD WAR a war cold	UPWIND wind-up
SPACE SHIP a ship space	CAST IRON an iron cast
CLUB SANDWICH a sandwich club	BOX KITE a kite box
JELLY BEAN bean jelly	CATHOUSE a house cat
GRADE SCHOOL a school grade	FIREHOUSE a house fire
DRESSING TABLE table dressing	LIGHTHOUSE a house light
CLOCKWORK a work clock	NIGHTFALL a fall night

Golden State Anagrams

Jed Martinez has been doing some California Dreamin', and the result is a collection of Golden State anagrams. The first is rather earth-shaking:

FOUR JOLTS IN AREA; I ACHE Joshua Tree, California
 GO FAR...A CON IS IDEAL IN San Diego, California
 LO, CAN OFFER RAISIN Fresno, California
 OY! FLAVOR O' GARLIC IN Gilroy, California
 HAMMY OTTER BY UNIQUE AREA The Monterey Bay Aquarium

Why The Dinosaurs Became Extinct

A Brontosaurus and a Stegosaurus were chatting in front of of an active volcano. The Steg was depressed, and the Bront was trying to cheer him up.

"Hey, Steg, why did the Camptosaurus cross the road?"

"Come on, that joke's prehistoric."

"Alright, try this: a friend said to me, 'Who was that Iguanodon I saw you out with last night?' And I said 'That was no Iguano-don, that was my Megalosaurus.'"

"Bo-o-oring."

"Wait! Didja hear this one?" the Bront persisted. "A Scelidosaurus walks into a bar, and he's got a Rhamphorhynchus on his shoulder. He says to the Triceratops bartender 'Gimme two...'"

"Heard it before."

"I give up," the Bront said, shaking his head. "As they say, you can't please a Plesiosaurus. What's got you so down in the mouth?"

"I don't know. Age, I guess."

"I should've remembered! Today's your birthday. Let's see, you were born in 71,834,667 B.C. That makes you 40!"

"I'm over the hill."

"Gee, time flies like a Pteradactyl. Did anybody throw you a

Steg party?"

"Ha. Ha. Very funny."

Just then, a Tyrannosaurus jogged by and waved to the two.

"Nice Reboks on Rex," the Bront said.

"I oughta jog," the Steg said gloomily. "I'm outa shape. Look at all this cellulite. I've got hips like a Hypselosaurus."

The volcano rumbled.

"I can't hear you!" the Bront shouted. "The noise..."

"Never mind!" the Steg replied. When the noise died down, he continued "Rex has been on a health kick ever since a Trachodon outran him."

"Yeah, he didn't do well on the track. I'll bet he felt as dumb as a Dimetrodon."

At that, a Dimetrodon trudged out of the old lava formation behind them.

"Duh! Did somebody mention my name?"

The Bront gulped and looked back at his tail. The Dimetrodon had planted his foot firmly on the tip.

"In a couple of minutes, that's going to hurt like hell when the pain message reaches my brain," the Bront said to himself. Two minutes later, he howled miserably.

"What, uh, what's the matter with you?" the Dimetrodon asked.

"You're stepping on my tail, you son of a Brachiosaurus!"

The Dimetrodon noticed a Pterosaur scudding overhead, and he started frolicking after it. The Pterosaur flew beyond the edge of a high cliff. The Dimetrodon continued pursuing the bird without realizing he was nearing the edge. A moment later, he blundered off and plummeted to his death far below.

"Some dinosaurs are really stupid," the Steg said. "Still, did you see the Adidas he was wearing? Pretty spiffy."

The Bront was rubbing his tail.

"Now I'm the one who's depressed."

"Gee," the Steg said cheerily, "And I'm in a better mood! Hey, maybe this'll cheer you up. A Monoclonius goes into one of those posh LaBrea restaurants and orders the Blue Plate Special. When the Plateosaurus brings it to her, she looks at it and says 'Waiter, what's this protozoon doing in my primordial soup?' And the waiter says 'Evolving.'"

A moment later, the volcano erupted.