KICKSHAWS

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Readers are encouraged to send their own favorite linguistic kick-shaws to the Kickshaws Editor. All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue. Guest editors will continue to appear occasionally.

The Improbable Laws of Starlight

As mentioned in the last Kickshaws, different people have different views about wordplay, views that can be expressed through metaphors – wordplay as astronomy, combinatorial math, geography. John Holgate adds this horoscopic metaphor:

Logology is really a portmanteau word for astrological philology and relates to mainstream linguistics as dada does to classical art or chaos theory to Newtonian physics. It is composed of GOLLY (a dialect word for "spittle") and GOO ("sticky matter") and this etymology tends to reveal the tongue-in-cheek nature of logological utterances. For the logologist words are potential fractals within the great universe of con-, dis- and intercourse. The logologist's quest to find irrational connections between the alphabet and society is akin to the astrologer's charting of human behaviour according to the improbable laws of star-light. Logology is as ancient as the zodiac yet its truths are as ephemeral as a weekly horoscope. Through the joys of word-play it brings us closer to human language than the whole cor-pus of astronomical grammar.

Automotivated

I keep a notebook next to me on the front seat of my car. It comes in handy, especially at stoplights. While waiting for the light to change, I fiddle around with the names of different cars and trucks that are idling nearby. Sometimes, the result is a bit of wordplay that could be used for a bumper sticker or a slogan. Other times, it's the prelude to a near accident. Here are the results, classified according to wordplay type. The first two examples are, to my way of thinking, perfect anagrams. The third is about my own car, which is a dog.

Anagrams: CIERA: I RACE...CAMRY: MY CAR...MERCURY is MY, ER, CUR...POINT to a PINTO...TOYOTA? AY, TOOT!...I'm a STAR, MAN, in my TRANS AM...Give GRANDMA a GRAND AM...With CHEVRO-LET you're IN THE CLOVER...CENTAURUS: U.S. CAR TUNE...STARE at an ASTRE...REGAL has a kingly GLARE...It IS FATE to own a FIESTA...It's the SIERRA ERA, SIR...Who SHARED your DASHER?..

RUSTED DUSTER...MONARCH, CHARM ON!...Buy ELECTRA, not TREA-
CLE like A TERCEL...Don't NIX HOPE for getting a PHOENIX...The
smaller NEWPORT is PERT NOW...You'll be a TIGRESS in a ST.
REGIS

Palindromes: 'N ASS IN A NISSAN...SONOMA! VAMONOS ("let's go"
in Spanish)...In this ERA, LOVE VOLARE...O, RAM A CAMARO...I
HAD NO HONDA (HI!)...ZAP, O TOPAZ!...SABLE WAS I ERE I SAW
ELEA'S...A HAM, A YAM, A MAMA: YAMAHA...O CAN! O MAN! O
DAD ON A MONACO!

Word-Order Palindrome: ROYCE ROLLS HIS ROLLS ROYCE

Circular Transposal: VEGA GAVE...Take AIM, PAL, with your IMPALA

Transdeletions: MERCEDES REDEEMS...PONTIAC ACTION...Three ways
to travel: DIESEL, EDSEL, SLED

Substitute Letter Transposals: OUR BUS is a SUBARU..SELECT TERCEL

Charades: Is your CAR A VAN? Mine's a CARAVAN...That's my SON
AT A SONATA...AS PEN writes, ASPEN rides

Substitute Letter Charade: GO ROLL A COROLLA

Letter Change: The EXPLORER is not an EXPLODER

Substitute Letter Transposal: FAIRLANE flies like an AIRPLANE

Miscellaneous: RAM and DODGE with a DODGE RAM...More MPH in
a TRIUMPH...I go, you go, we all go for YUGO...abcdefghijklmnopq
rstuVWxyz: Volkswagen stands out from the crowd

Music, Maestro

Ira Braus writes "The Wilhelminian conductor-composer Max Reger
was celebrated both for his girth and his glibness. An admirer
once complained to him after a concert 'Maestro, your conducting was superb, but I wish I could have seen your facial expressions as well.' Replied Reger 'You didn't miss much. I'm the same in front as I am in back.' The preceding inspired the grid at the left."
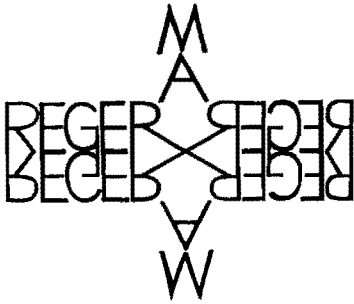
The Mello-Lingo Dictionary

Ambrose Bierce wrote The Devil's Dictionary, but even the devil
gets behind the times. O.V. Michaelsen has his own definitions,
most of which are collected in the Mello-Lingo Dictionary. Some
examples for the truly contemporary jargonizer:

COKE FIEND   snowflake
CONTACT HIGH   midair collision
CRASHING   falling asleep in the fast lane
DIPLOMACY   a lie for a lie, a truth for the truth
DREAM HOUSE   surreal estate
EGOMANIAC   a spectator on center stage
FREE AGENT   unemployed
GANJA   holy smoke

HEAVY METAL   rock bottom
HUNGER PROJECT   thought for food
MOD   archaic abbreviation of "modern"
POP PSYCHOLOGY   fast food for thought
PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH   a void in the issues
ROLFING   one of the safest alternatives to effective medical
   treatment
SINNER   the next best thing to a saint
SKIN FLICKS   elbows and knees out of focus
SUBCULTURE   the econo-classed
TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION   enlightenment for the indolent
TRICKLE-DOWN ECONOMICS   pennies from Reagan
UTOPIA   no man's land
VALLEY GIRL
WEIRDO   an eccentric who's not an artist
YOGI   a karmakhanic

A Visit With Chomsky

A few years ago, I took an introductory linguistics class. One day the teacher said that Noam Chomsky was in town to give a lecture to a general audience at the University of Iowa – and he might drop by for our class. Minutes later, the master himself walked in, and there was the deafening sound of 30 jaws dropping to the floor! He was a slim, kindly-looking person who reminded me of my uncle.

The class gazed with awe. HE was here. The man that the linguistics departments of America have deified: The High Priest of Deep Structure.

"I'm not going to give a lecture," he said in a mild voice. "You people can ask questions, and I'll try to answer them."

A wheatfield of hands sprouted. One guy near the front waved his surprisingly long arm back and forth like a windmill. Chomsky called on him.

"How do you respond to Skinner's view of learning?" he asked.

This was THE question to ask Chomsky. B.F. Skinner, the big daddy of classical conditioning, was the master's intellectual archenemy. Chomsky reveled at the chance to skin Skinner, and he did so for about 35 minutes. By the time he'd finished, there were only 15 minutes of class left.

"Any other questions?" he asked.

I waved my arm like a helicopter, and he called on me.

"There's a group of poets in California who say their poetry is based on your ideas. Do you know them, and if so, what do you think of their poems?"

Their poems, as I knew, often were composed of random words scattered randomly on the page.

"I don't know them," he said, and started to turn to someone else.

"One other question," I said before losing the floor. "What do you think of Gertrude Stein?"

"I don't like her work," he said. "It's meaningless. I think that children can write more interesting stuff."

"How would you explain her writing in your terms?"

"Linguistics deals with spoken language. Written language, especially literary language, is out of the domain of transformational grammar." Then, pointing to another student, "Do you have a question over there?"

That was it. I was disappointed at his my-kid-could-do-better-than-that type of dodge to the Stein question. And while linguistics is supposed to deal with spoken language, all the examples of ill-formed sentences in linguistic books aren't oral but written. Chomsky's most well-known ill-formed sentence, "Colorless green ideas dream furiously," is a wonderful example of nonsense poetry, but I doubt if it would ever occur in a sober conversation.

Next day, I asked the teacher what he thought about Chomsky's replies.

"Chomsky's a genius, and everyone knows it," the teacher said. "He's at a point in his career when he feels he can say what he wants about linguistics and not have to prove it through research. He leaves that up to his followers."

Colorless green ideas dream furiously.

The Pat-Sue-Bill Family Saga

In the last Kickshaws, the names PAT, SUE, and BILL were placed in all possible combinations to form sentences (Pat, sue Bill; Sue, bill Pat; Bill, pat Sue; etc.). The nouns were personal names, and the verbs had commonly-known definitions. Faith Eckler sent three of the combinations with variant explanations. The first paragraph utilizes a different meaning of "bill" than mine (which meant "to invoice"), and the initialisms found in the second and third paragraphs are both from the Gale Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary. The saga continues:

Little Suzie, age four, was taken to the zoo by her mother, and there she met an auk. Now Suzie was an amiable child, enchanted by all species of wildlife, and she wanted to demonstrate her affection for the auk. She touched its rump, but all the creature did was squawk. She tried stroking its leg, but the bird only stamped its foot in aggravation. Finally, her mother suggested "Sue, pat bill."

Meanwhile, Suzie's father, William, was sitting at home feeling morose. He had been fired from his job at the Peninsula Air Transport Company located in Michigan. True, he had been caught smoking inthe men's room - a clear violation of company policy - but he felt he had his rights. Finding him in this melancholy condition when they returned from the zoo, Suzie's mother advised, "Bill, sue PAT."

Suzie's mother, Patricia, had problems of her own. During William's enforced unemployment she had begun her own consulting business, giving advice to laid-off professionals and others with work-related complaints. It seemed an appropriate career in view of her husband's problems. She didn't have an awful lot of time to devote to the business, so she relied on her clients to pay up of their own accord. However, one customer – the Significantly Underutilized Employee Program – was several months in arrears. Her husband's advice: "Pat, bill SUE."

Water, Water Everywhere

> It's found in the sea like pirate's loot.
> Cut off its tail, and now it's a fruit.
> Cut off its tail once more, and you read
> The name of a vegetable small as a seed.

Language Logic

Without exception, all logical statements can be divided into two kinds: paradoxical and non-paradoxical. The proof? No statement can possibly fall into both categories. If it did, that would be paradoxical. Quod erat demonstrandum.

Dictionary Paradox

PARADOX: "1. a statement that seems contradictory, etc. but may be true in fact. 2. a statement that is self-contradictory and, hence, false"
  ~Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language

In this two-part definition, statement #2 seems to contradict statement #1. In that case, according to #1, #2 is true. But #1 is self-contradictory, first defining PARADOX as a contradiction and then saying it may be a truth. Thus, according to #2, #1 is false. Then #2 is really false, which makes #1 true, which makes #2 true, which makes #1 false, etc. Another example of the dictionary staff having fun with language.

Triple Wordplay

If the previous definition isn't enough to convince you that dictionaries are really joke books in disguise, read these three definitons that Peter Newby found in the original Pears Dictionary published some fifty years ago:

> ANT n emmet or pismire
> EMMET n ant or pismire
> PISMIRE n ant or emmet

Ugliest Word in English

Several of us have nominated our choices for the Ugliest Word in English to the editor. The choices are mostly based on sound or sense. Peter has wondered if these two can be included on purely logological grounds:

1. GLUIEST: Perhpas the closest transposition is UGLIEST
2. GLISH: Peter's choice for the ugliest word in ENGLISH, uglier than any other words in it, such as EN and LI. GLISH was once a full-fledged English word meaning "to glance over", but now it's found only in one of the dialects of the British Isles with a meaning of "to glitter, shine".

Glish

I like GLISH. It's got that special language magic in it - but why did it disappear? Modern speakers and writers should think about picking up on it. Some practice sentences that substitute GLISH for "to glitter" or "to shine" in one form or another:

When she fell in love, her eyes glished like starlight
All that glishes is not gold
I punched him in the eye and gave him a glisher
The diamond ring was glishing in the display case
Where can I go to get my shoes glished?
Glish on, glish on, harvest moon!

Nine in a Row

A couple of issues back, Susan Thorpe wondered which word contained the greatest number of consecutive letters without repetition. Jeff Grant replied with three answers, one of which was the six-letter FIGHED (past tense of FIGH, which means "foul" according to the English Dialect Dictionary). With a small screech of the imagination, that word can be jammed into the nine-letter CAB-FIGHED, fouled by the exhaust fumes of a taxi. Example of use: "Ugh! The air is really cab-fighed today." With a little more twisting and turning, an eleven-letter word can be made: JACK-BEFIGH'D, befouled by the jack of a car. Example of use: "Hah! When the cabbie changed his tire, his clothes got jack-befigh'd."

Faster Than a Speeding Bullet

My son and I had a dinner discussion about how quickly different things travel. After comparing several bicycles, cars, planes, rocket ships, and Superman, I pointed to the lamp on the kitchen table and told him that light is the fastest thing of all.

"I know something that goes faster than light," he said.

"What?" I asked.

"Dark. It goes so fast that you can't see it."

The Head-Shaking Game

One day, while we were getting ready to go somewhere, my son shook his head "yes" and said, "This means 'no'." Then he shook his head "no" and said, "This means 'yes'." I wasn't sure what he really meant, but the main topic of conversation was where we should go. So I said, "Do you want to go to the amusement park?" He shook his head "no". "You don't?" I asked. "Yes I do," he replied, "that's what I said." And then I knew what

he meant. He was switching the head-shake signals around. We asked each other a few more questions, always answering in the new way: "yes" means "no"; "no" means "yes".

A couple of days later, he started the game again. This time, after a few regular questions, I said to him, "Danny, does this mean 'yes'?" And I shook my head "no". He shook his head "no" in reply. "It does?" I asked. "No," he said. "But," I said, "you shook your head like this, and that means 'yes'. I gotcha!" He laughed when he realized that he'd been tricked at his own game.

As you'll see, the head-shaking game curves logic around like a linguistic Möbius strip. Consider these questions and answers in the "yes"="no" / "no"="yes" system:

    Q1. Does this mean "yes"? (shaking head "no")
    A1: (Shake head "no," because the answer is "yes".)
    Q2: Does this mean "yes"? (shaking head "yes")
    A2: (Shake head "yes," because the answer is "no".)
    Q3: Does this mean "no"? (shaking head "no")
    A3: (Shake head "yes", because the answer is "no".)
    Q4: Does this mean "no"? (shaking head "yes")
    A4: (Shake head "no", because the answer is "yes".)

Now try asking those questions in the normal system where yes means yes and no means no. This time the answer to Q1 is – shake head "no". The reason – because now the answer is "no". That is, shaking head "no" does not mean "yes". Note that the head shake is still the same as above. In fact, the answers to all four self-referential questions are expressed by the same head shakes in both systems!

Play the game with a friend. Reverse the meanings of head shakes and start with a few simple questions. Once your friend has mastered the art of thinking in the opposite way, ask one of the four self-referential questions. He or she will give the wrong answer or pause awhile before giving the right answer. Now say that you can answer the same kind of questions instantly. To do so, just shift your thinking back to the normal system.

Self-Referential Star Trek

On a recent episode of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" the following dialogue occurs. Data, the extremely logical android, has just been restored to consciousness. Lying on the floor, he openns his eyes and sees Jordi LaForge, Captain Picard, and Worf the Klingon.

DATA   May I ask a question?
JORDI   I think you just did
DATA   Then may I ask another question after this one?
JORDI   No, you've already asked two questions
DATA   Then may I ask two more questions including this one?
JORDI   What is the next question?
DATA   Have I been given permission to ask them?
JORDI   Yes, and now you've asked both
DATA   Does that mean I cannot ask this question?

JORDI I believe it does
DATA May I apologize for asking the last question without being
  given permission?
JORDI Yes, but what about that question?
DATA Which question?
JORDI The question before the question you just asked
CAPTAIN And, I might add, the question you just asked
DATA I see. In that case, may I request permission for the
  last two questions, for the question, and for the next question?
CAPTAIN Yes
DATA Dare I ask the next question?
CAPTAIN Not without permission

Sister Irene's Rule

The above dialog reminds me of a teacher I had in grade school,
Sister Irene. She had a rule that a student had to ask permission
for anything and everything. I wondered how anyone could ask
permission, since that would require asking permission to ask
permission, and that would require asking permission to ask per-
mission to ask permission, and so on.

Enlightened Verse

> "Jesus!
> This cheese is—
> N't Gouda,"
> Said Buddha.

Order, Please

APRICOT, JUNCTIONAL, NOVELIZATIONS, AUGMENTATION, JANGLE,
MARSHMALLOW, OCTET, DECOMPENSATION, FEBRIFUGE, JULIENNE,
MAYO, SEPTUAGENARIANS. These words can be put in alphabetical
order, like any set of words. But can you arrange them in two
logical ways that don't depend on alphabetization?

Antibirds

Out bird-watching in the anti-matter universe, Peter Newby
spied the PELICAN'T, the WOODN'T PECK HER, and the CANNOT-
ADA GOOSE. How many other antibirds are there? I just saw a
DON'TDON'T perching outside my window with a WHIPPORWON'T
chirping in the background.

The Elcrick Circle

It sounds like something out of Lord of the Rings. According
to Peter, several residents of New Bybwen have formed a society
of palindromists: the Rev. I.R. (Bob) River, Walter Fretlaw, Miss
S. Sim, Dr. A. Noel Leonard, Pat May Yamtap, Penelope Pole-Nep,
Elsie Isle, Donald La Nod, H. Tim Smith, Reg N.I. Finger, and
Abner Wren, B.A. Called the Elcrick Circle, it wishes to associate
with other groupings in other localities – from North Tron to South
Tuos, from West Sew to East Sae.

Among other types of wordplay, the Elcrick Circle has combined pairs of reversal words in single, logical sentences called Janusdromes. Two examples: "LIVE in EVIL," --Rev. I.R. (Bob) River; "EROS by any other name would be as SORE," --Dr. A. Noel Leonard.

Commercial Enter(sur)prise

All of us are familiar with the classic Spoonerism, in which sounds of words are switched to produce funny new combinations of words (e.g., THE DEAR OLD QUEEN becoming THE QUEER OLD DEAN). Peter Newby quotes a store sign with a display of POT NOODLES with the label "These Are NOT POODLES".

However, he is more interested in the potential Spoonerism. As he puts it, "Many years ago I was told a risque anecdote about a man who named his feline pet COOKING FAT and when asked the reason why he replied that it was because the darned moggy kept getting under his feet and tripping him up and the name arose as a mispronounced consequence. This tale came to mind when I went to a local Chesterfield enterprise named FORD'S BOOK STORES. Mentioning this to fellow **Word Ways** subscriber Julie Titchener, I was amazed at her topping it with the name of a food supplier whose large truck is often seen in the town and causes her to smile at its name emblazoned boldly on the vehicle, BOOKER FITCH. The only other local example which springs to mind is not a true potential Spoonerism but one which could cause the tongue to go askew - the name of a tavern in Derby, THE HORSE AND TRUMPET."

Murdering English

The suffix -CIDE (denoting killing or killer) ends many serious words. The OED records one humorous item, BOVICIDE, a butcher. Peter suggests several more INCIDE words:

BEDCIDE   one who or that which deprives one of sleep
RIVERCIDE   the pollution of inland waterways with toxic waste
ROADCIDE   culpable homicide while under the influence of alcohol
   or narcotics
DARKCIDE   the murder of a Moonie
PORTCIDE   alcohol poisoning
STATECIDE   genocide of American Indians north of Mexico and
   south of Canada
FLIPCIDE   murder by a bull; murder by bashing one over the
   head with the less-popular side of a record
OFFCIDE   killing a football player in the middle of a play
CHOP SUEYCIDE   death by overeating at a Chinese restaurant
   (analogous to the Japanese SUSHICIDE)

Transcancellations

Peter has come up with a new kind of puzzle. In each question, two words are highlighted by capital letters. To figure out the answer, cancel out letters that are common to both words, and anagram the remaining letters to find the appropriate word. Note that each letter in one word cancels just one letter in the other.

1. What is the difference between a DICTIONARY and a DIARY?
2. Between a NUDE and a NUDIST?
3. Between a DOWAGER and a WORD?
4. Between a CARTHORSE and an ORCHESTRA?

A few months ago, I was fiddling around with the idea of taking two words, writing all the different letters, and anagramming them into a single word or phrase (FOR + OGRE = F,O,R,G,E = FORGE). But this process seemed too limiting, since it didn't permit doubled letters. When I saw Peter's puzzle, I realized I was doing nearly the opposite. The better way of combining two words is not to keep one of each letter, but to cancel duplications of letters and anagram the survivors (EAT – SLEEP = A,T,S,L,E,P after cancelling one E from each word = PLATES). These transcancellations offer more possibilities. Below are five transcancelled pairs with some meaning related to the resulting word. Number transcancellations are also possible (TWO – ONE = WENT; SEVEN – SIX = NIX EVE). A more difficult variant is the simple cancellation, in which the letters don't have to be rearranged (TRAIN – PLANE = T,R,I,P, L,E = TRIPLE). What are the longest pair of words that cancel or transcancel to a third word? Can transcancellation ladders be made?

WOMAN – MAN = OW!	LAUREL – HARDY = YELL "DUH!"
EAT – SLEEP = PLATES	CITY – COUNTRY = O, RUIN!
HOUSE – HOME = SUM	

Unattractive Opposites

In the preceding Kickshaw, the word pairs have one or more letters in common. It's surprising, though, how many antonyms have no letters repeated: HUSBAND-WIFE, ADAM-EVE, FATHER-SON, BLACK-WHITE, BOY-GIRL, DAY-NIGHT, WALK-RUN, UP-DOWN, IN-OUT, TRUTH-LIE, EAT-DRINK, GOOD-EVIL, YES-NO, etc. And trios of related words (not antonyms) with no letters duplicated aren't too rare: TOM-DICK-HARRY, DOG-CAT-BIRD.

Queen Anne is Dead

According to Peter, "Queen Anne is dead" is an old saying which signifies the end of an era. Anne was the last Stuart monarch of Great Britain even though the Jacobites continued to number her linear successors culminating in a cardinal at Rome whom they considered to be Henry IX. But to which capital did ANNE IV return? Looking back through history, you should see the answer.

In Is Out

I just finished reading Dante's Ferno. I'd like to form you about the poet's cessant love for a woman he called Laura. Although he'd seen her just once, he was fatuated with her, for she'd made a delible impression on him. She habited Italy, like him, before the Dustrial Revolution. They both haled the same air, gested the same kind of food. But did they dulge in the same desires? Dante was digent, his dividuality came out in words, but they didn't duce the mysterious lady to look him up later.

If he'd vited her out that first day, would she have accepted the vitation, or would she have reacted dignantly? Perhaps she would've been censed. Maybe she would've ground her cisors together in anger. On the other hand, she might've been flamed with desire, not hibited by modesty, and they could've become timate. After all, love is a door sport, dicative of the romantic spirit. In Dante's case, the brief cident left him with a fection of the spirit, a fluenza of the soul. I'll be genuous with you: his heart hurt worse than a grown toenail.

Internal Lettershift

Internal lettershift words have equal alphabetic steps separating letters that are next to each other. In FOX, for instance, the alphabetic shift between F and O is nine: FghijklmnO. Likewise, the shift between O and X is nine. It's an internal lettershift word. They're scarcer than lettershift pairs. In fact, there are only 24 examples in the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary. This breaks down to 21 three-letter words, three four-letter words, and one five-letter word. One group, LAP, APE, PET, forms a word square mentioned in a previous Kickshaws. The internal lettershift words preceded by their shift values appear below, followed by some personal names with this property. Other examples?

5 dins, jot	11 pal	18 ask, mew
7 gnu, nub	13 ere, bob	19 bun, bung, hat, lex
8 mucks, owe, emu	15 pet, lap, ape	20 keys
9 fox	17 jar	24 cay
		25 fed

9 Ira	13 Ana, Nan, Bob	17 Ari
12 Amy	14 Mao	19 Lex

A puzzle: start with any vowel, add a number to its alphabetic shift value to get a second vowel, add the same number to the second vowel's shift value to get a third vowel, and so on till you connect five vowels. (At the end of the alphabet, keep counting by going from Z to A.) What number do you add, and which vowels belong to the series?

Quadralphabetic States

A few Kickshaws ago, I asked how many words from any single dictionary could be quadralphabetized. To do this, each word has to have its letters arranged in each of four ways: (1) regular (LETTERS), (2) reverse (SRETTEL), (3) alphabetic order (EELRSTT), (4) reverse alphabetic order (TTSRLEE). The object is to form the largest list of words that have the same alphabetic order in all of these ways. However, an unabridged dictionary of words might forever stymie any human (or computer) attempt to find the maximum. To simplify matters, I tried the names of the 50 states but even that is hard. After several attempts, I found just two five-state sets with minor variants. One of the sets is mapped out below; the other is AL-OK-RI-TN-VT (UT can be substituted for TN). Can you locate a set of six or more states?

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ALABAMA          AMABALA         AAAABLM         MLBAAAA
NORTHCAROLINA    ANILORACHTRON   AACHILNNOORRT   TRROONNLIHCAA
SOUTHCAROLINA    ANILORACHTUOS   AACHILNOORSTU   UTSROONLIHCAA
SOUTHDAKOTA      ATOKADHTUOS     AADHKOOSTTU     UTTSOOKHDAA
TEXAS            SAXET           AESTX           XTSEA
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        (VERMONT can be substituted for TEXAS)

With smaller groups of words, it's easy to find the optimal
set. For the seven colors of the rainbow, any one of the alpha-
betically first five colors can come before the last two to paint
a three-color quadralphabetization set - that is, BLUE, GREEN,
INDIGO, ORANGE or RED preceding VIOLET and YELLOW. For the
nine planets, one four-planet set works: EARTH, SATURN, URANUS,
VENUS. What about other sets of words?

Danquaylized

Mike Dupree, a columnist for the Cedar Rapids Gazette, wrote
these two sentences in a May 25 article on Bill Clinton's $200
haircut: "Less tangible, but potentially as damaging, is the threat
that Clinton may become danquaylized...It wouldn't take many
more extra-strength danquaylizers like Hairgate to render him
irrelevant."

Other politicians' names have been made into words suggestive
of their personal style. It's as American as Reaganomics (which
anagrams to the splendid A CON GAME, SIR, by Mary Oberlander).
But danquaylize introduces two elements that make it unusual.
It isn't capitalized, and it includes both first and last names
(as if he would be confused with all the other Quayles in national
politics). Let's see how functional this approach can be.

President Clinton got up early, took a couple of danquaylizers,
and geraldforded down the steps of the White House. Outside, he pruned
the flowering georgebushes.
Janet Reno drove up - and she was boiling mad! She climbed out of
her car and eleanorroosevelted across the lawn.
"Bill," she hillaryrodhamclintoned loudly, "you dicknixoned me last
week. Have you got any explanation?"
Clinton grinned jimmyhcarterishly, set the shears down, and strode
georgewashingtonly up to her.
"Well, Janet," he dwighteisenhowered in a meek voice, "you're abso-
lutely correct. It was a ronaldreaganizing thing to do. I can assure
you that it won't ever happen again."
"That's not good enough!" she ladybirdjohnsoned back. "First I was
tedkennedied on the Waco tragedy, and now I've been waltermondaled
on this travel office stuff! I want more than words. I want it in
writing."
Bill hung his head low, abrahamlincolning his thoughts together.
Finally, he looked up and said, "So be it, Janet. I'll see that it's
spiroagnewed to you right away."
The next day, he jedgarhoovered a memo to her promising not to let
it happen again, and then he herberthoovered his latest economic plan
to Congress.