

KICKSHAWS

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The Eleven-Year Itch

"The approaching millennium brings with it a plethora of anniversaries: end of a decade, end of the twentieth century, end of the second millennium," writes Steve Chism. For numerical palindromists it heralds another long-awaited and unique event. Presently, we find ourselves between two palindromic years, 1991 and 2002. A palindromic date is of course unusual in itself. But these two palindromic years are separated by the smallest possible palindromic number of years--eleven! This event was practically passe during the first century AD when it occurred eight times in a row: 11-22 AD, 22-33 AD, etc., to 88-99 AD.

"At that point, however, the bottom dropped out and it didn't happen again for ninety-two years (99-191 AD). The 11-year cycle recommenced with the years 191 AD - 202 AD. But now there were 90-year intervals between 11-year cycles (after 191-202, skip 90 years to 292-303, skip 90 years to 393-404, etc.). This continued until the year 909 AD, when the whole process ground abruptly to a halt for well over a thousand years.

"Then, 1082 years later, when 1991 rolled around, many people noted that the year was a palindrome, and that the next palindromic date occurs right on its heels in 2002. What they failed to notice, though, was that the last time this happened, most of the castles in Europe had not been built. And it will be nearly a thousand years before it happens again in 2992-3003!"

Dyslexicographer

On his way to give a talk at a convention on speech disorders, Richard Lederer discovered that DYSLEXIA anagrams to DAILY SEX. Is that the cause or the cure?

Charadical

The charade is a form of wordplay that resembles the anagram, except that the letters in a word or words aren't rearranged--they're just spaced differently. Many words can be charaded into phrases or sentences: MAN'S LAUGHTER, THE RAPIST and IS LAND are short classics and AMIABLE TOGETHER = AM I ABLE TO GET HER? by Dmitri Borgmann is a perfect longer example. Here is a selection of one-word charades from a long list compiled by Steve and Sheila Toth.

AT TEN, DANCE	A "HE" AD	THOU SANDS	A LIE, NATION
HEAL THY	CON'S PIRACY	WAR'S HIP	PULP IT
BRA IN	BUTT ON	CAN DIED	OVERT AX
MAN, I CURE	GENE RATIONS	IS SUE?	PAT RIOTS
BEANS TALK	ASS AS SIN	LEG ENDS	HEAT HER
IMP, ACT!	PLEA? SURE!	COVE RAGE	PUMP KIN
DORM ANT	I RATE	DRAG ON	BAN KING
MUST ACHE	MEAD, OWL, ARK	GRUBS TAKE	CAP A CITY
PI RATES	WAS SAIL?	GAR DEN	SEA'S HELL

Like anagrams, some charades relate in meaning to the starting words, as in this comment on the afternoon television culture by Michael-Sean Lazarchuk: SOAP OPERA = SO A POP ERA. In an anticharade, a word or sentence changes into another word or sentence with a contrasting meaning, as SEARING SUN LIT ISLAND = SEA RINGS UNLIT ISLAND. And with a little extra linguistic spin, this triple charade recycles the letters so that no word is repeated: WITHAL, ONE VEILED = WIT, HAL. ON EVE I LED = WITH A LONE VEIL, ED.

In the final charade, the first sentence has longer words at the beginning, and the second has them at the end:

SIGNIFICANT INSCRIPTION: LYING OLD CAPITAL LINES SENT, I ALLY
ON ESTATE, MEN, TO NAME'S SAGE
SIGN IF I CAN'T--IN SCRIPT. I, ONLY IN GOLD, CAP IT ALL IN
ESSENTIALLY ONE STATEMENT ON A MESSAGE

Beyond the Palindddrome Challenge

E.J. Ulrich has upped the ante on the triple-letter challenge by creating palindromes with more than three repeated letters in them. As a bonus, he's put his examples in puzzle form. "Here are eleven palindromes, each built around a letter that appears four or more times in a row. In each, all vowels are given (except for No. 3, in which all consonants appear). An asterisk before a letter indicates it is capitalized. To help you fill in the blanks, each palindrome is followed by a paraphrase of itself." Can you reconstruct these multiple-letter dromes?

- I- -A-E -OO OO-E, -A-- I-!
Cheap metal caused menagerie to seep--drat!
- *-O-, A -O---' - * - *-*O*-, A -O-!
Gad, the head honcho's a martinet--a cur!
- '-R FL-- FR--; -' -R F--L FR--
Always take flight unhampered; always experience liberty
- I-- O-E, --O -A-II? *I, *I-A, -O- -E-, *O*-, -I-?
Dare a couple (or fewer) half-diameters? Me, Idabel, I'll paddle five times that--all right, Mister?
- A--, E-? -IE, *-I--'- -I-E I- -E'- -A-
Weirs, you say? Phooey, famed pirate captain would build levee when angry
- E--, I-'- -I-- -I-, *-A-; A-- --A-A- E-I- --I- --I--, E-?

Heck, now's when you get hints, Samuel; invariably Andean mammals expectorate yet--right?

7. -A-- -O- -E--E- U-, *-A-; *-***- -A-- U-E- -E--O--- -A-
Those across the very rear tighten, MacArthur; Depression-era work project employs interconnected-system taxi
8. -A--E, -E-'- -EE-; *-***- -EE-- -E-E--A-
Marjorie, I suggest we sneak a look; the Klan retains the message received by wire
9. *-O-'- -U--! (*--A-- --- -A-- --U-- *-O-)
Ma's bonkers! ("Sound of Music" family's extremely soft section stupefies her)
10. *- , A -E--! *-A *-E--'--- -E- A---E -A--!
Sir, an assist! Swiss archer-hero's dad will allow fruit to injure!
11. O- AI-, A --I-- --- -I-- A-IA?
While broadcasting, a rigid fortississimo's appropriate with vocal solo? Never!

Five S's

Harry Partridge devised a palindrome revolving around a string of five S's. In it, S SAL is "sodium salt" and RET and SSU are in Webster's Second Unabridged. Among other things, RET means "to soak or expose to moisture" or "to reckon", and SSU is "a hundred thousandth".

S SAL RETS ULTRA PUSS'S SSU PART LUSTER, LASS

Lotologist

"Western Lotologist Society Convention..." begins an ad in Numismatic News. What is a LOTOLOGIST? The evil twin of a LOGOLOGIST? It's actually a newly-coined term for one of these: a person who collects (1) vacant lots, (2) lottery tickets, (3) old lotto and bingo cards, (4) lots of things. But which one?

A Clerihew about a Palindromist

Harry wrote the following clerihew, which pays a wordplay tribute to one of the modern masters of palindromes:

Leigh Mercer
Went to sea as a purser;
When he felt lonely and far from home
He'd always write a pal in Drôme

Odd Word Out

Here's a quick 'n' tricky puzzle by E.J. Ulrich. The question is, which one of the words below does not belong with the rest of the words? Can you come up with any other words that could fit in?

NET RAN GAS YAK DAM WED

A Beastly Quiz

This quiz, by Peter Newby, is even trickier than the previous one. The question is the same: which of the following words is the odd one out?

AARDVARK EEL LLAMA LLANO NNAME OOBIT

A Fall Poem

About the poem that follows, Oren Dalton says "The first three or four lines are not entirely original. I heard some scattered words through static one rainy night when I was driving home. I'm not sure if I heard pieces of a poem or a happenstance of a few key words from a speech. At any rate, 99 per cent is mine."

In Autumn, when the days grow short,
Mice move into the davenport.
And there they live: wild and free
Nestled--in the upholstery.

And migrant cockroaches, tribes and nations
Feast freely on the winter's rations.
Mealybugs, crickets, moles and skunks
Throw attic-stomps in bags and trunks.

Spiders with their kith and kin,
And all their baggage, settle in
And build, in closets, corners, beds,
Industrial-strength cold-weather webs.
And spider clans get such a kick
By jumping out to scare you sick.

City Stores

Charles Linnet and Karen Royden have a quiz about specialty stores with special names. As they explain, "I am sure you are familiar with the practice of attaching 'city' to the name of a specialty store to give the implication that the store contains an entire 'city' of the stuff it sells. I have seen Tie City, Computer City, Circuit City, etc. It would seem that one could then reinterpret certain words that end with -city in light of the above. Following are some examples." Can anyone add to this with real or imaginary City Stores?

PAUCITY where you go to buy a small pet, such as a dog or cat
TENACITY where you go to buy equipment for that game Martina plays
CAPACITY where you go to buy an Italian hat
MENDACITY where you go after receiving a harsh reprimand
SAGACITY where you go to purchase historical epics

FEROCITY where you go to buy iron ore
 RAPACITY where you go to hear Ice Tea
 SALACITY where you go to buy Spanish living room furniture
 TOXICITY where a Britisher can go to call for a cab
 VIVACITY where you go to buy paper towels and napkins

In With the In-Crowd

This puzzle by Ira Braus is ideal for solving at your local pub. As Ira describes it, "During my barhopping days, there were certain establishments whose names scared me off. I'm sure other readers have had similar experiences. Fill in the blanks!" Each blank requires a place name that goes with the name of the creature preceding it. Both names come from a well-known phrase or the title of a well-known literary work. For instance, DOG IN THE MANGER would suggest a drinkerie called THE DOG'S MANGER.

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Atheist's... | 6. The Fly's... | 11. The Roach's... |
| 2. The Babe's... | 7. The Ghost's... | 12. The Scorpion's... |
| 3. The Bull's... | 8. The Kangaroo's... | 13. The Skeleton's... |
| 4. The Canary's... | 9. The Murderer's.. | 14. The Snake's... |
| 5. The Cat's... | 10. The Pig's... | 15. The Worm's... |

Desiverata Revised

Jeff Grant reports on an incredible archeological discovery: "Peter Newby's I, SCIPPIO discovery (mentioned in the February 1993 Kickshaws) came to mind when I read recently about the unearthing of a Cornish monolith which also bears a rather strange inscription. Although this rock was undoubtedly quarried several thousand years ago, the words are thought to be less than four centuries old. The language is apparently an obscure and obsolete local dialect, which is translated here as accurately as possible. Note in particular the words NIEBY (nigh/by) for AMID, and REBMEMERD for REMEMBER, as well as the use of AME'CA (AMERICA?) for NOISE, and A'HESION (ADHESION?) for PEACE."

Inscription

EC NELIS NIEBY AME'CA [EPT]
 AHW REBMEMERD NAETS A'HESION
 DIM AYL DI CALPOG

Translation

GO PLACIDLY AMID NOISE (HASTE?)
 AND REMEMBER WHAT PEACE
 MAY BE IN SILENCE

The Business of Wordplay

Jeff saw this sign on a local bar/nightclub in Hastings, New Zealand. It's a word unit palindrome: DAWN TO DUSK TO DAWN TO DUSK TO DAWN TO DUSK TO DAWN.

He also offers this extension of Peter Newby's item on the Dracula Lu Card which was for use in "listening blood banks" (November 1995 Kick-

shaws). Jeff writes that "The Transylvania group has apparently issued a follow-up general blood bank credit card--the Dracula ValuCard."

Gang Wordplay Versus Monty Python Dialog

In the November 1995 Kickshaws, I noted that two Los Angeles gangs, the Bloods and the Crypts, used wordplay in prison to put each other down. The Bloods substituted B for C in certain words, like BIGARETTES and BOFFEE. Jeff Grant found a comic routine that uses it, too: "The Bloods are well behind the times in this particular letter-substitution (or are they Monty Python fans?). I've enclosed an extract from a 1972 Monty Python's Flying Circus script. A [phonograph] record of this script is identical, except that it includes the extra last line below--obviously the line was considered a bit risque for TV in those days." Here is a slightly-edited excerpt from the script:

BOUNDER Anyway, you're interested in one of our adventure holidays, eh?

TOURIST Yes. I saw your advert in the bolour supplement.

BOUNDER The what?

TOURIST The bolour supplement.

BOUNDER The colour supplement.

TOURIST Yes. I'm sorry I'm unable to say the letter 'B'.

BOUNDER C?

TOURIST Yes, that's right. It's all due to a trauma I suffered when I was a sboolboy. I was attacked by a bat.

BOUNDER A cat?

TOURIST No, a bat.

BOUNDER Can you say the letter 'K'?

TOURIST Oh, yes. Khaki, king, kettle, Kuwait, Keble Bollege Oxford.

BOUNDER Why don't you say the letter 'K' instead of the letter 'C'?

TOURIST What do you mean...spell bolour with a 'K'?

BOUNDER Yes.

TOURIST Kolour. Oh, that's very good, I never thought of that! What a silly bunt!

Double Doubles

A NY Times Sunday Crossword (Nov 18 1984) puzzle by George P. Sphicas appeared with the title "Double Doubles". A double double is--well, it's easier to show them than define them. This list begins with two examples of clue plus answer. Can you figure out the remaining double doubles from the clues?

1. Baseball's Bando greets Indians (SAL SALUTES UTES)
2. Boy-friend gives orders re trysts (MAN MANDATES DATES)
3. The sun gives comfort to top pilots
4. Russian blue-pencils a script
5. Hackman causes fixed fees
6. Landers reveals her weight with unnecessary accuracy
7. Well-mannered bishop dined

8. Little devil gets crumbs from overseas
9. Nicklaus takes interest in photography

Prime Expressions

As discussed in previous Kickshaws, self-referential sums are sums where number-letter totals and number totals are equal. ONE + ONE = TWO is not self-referential since there are six letters but the numbers total to two. Len Gordon provided a special list of self-referential sums, which he explains: "Let's call the following 'prime' expressions. All others are 'composite' which can be derived by adding or subtracting prime ones. Those primes are the 'factors' of the composite. If we subtract the first expression below from the second, we get THREE - ONE = 2. I could just as well have used this to define THREE. It's arbitrary. Note that none of these prime expressions use more than three number names. Breaking an expression into primes may also be called decomposing it." This is a set of 27 prime expressions for the numbers up to 100. The number in parenthesis is the number introduced to the set.

ONE + SEVEN = 8 (SEVEN)
 THREE + SEVEN = 10 (THREE)
 ONE + FIVE + FIVE = 11 (FIVE)
 TWO + FIVE = 7 (TWO)
 FOUR = 4 (FOUR)
 ONE + TWO + SIX = 9 (SIX)
 EIGHT - SIX = 2 (EIGHT)
 NINE - SIX + ONE = 4 (NINE)
 TEN - NINE + ONE = 2 (TEN)
 ELEVEN - NINE = 2 (ELEVEN)
 TWELVE - SIX - SIX = 0 (TWELVE)
 THIRTEEN - NINE = 4 (THIRTEEN)
 FOURTEEN - TWELVE = 2 (FOURTEEN)
 FIFTEEN - TWELVE + ONE = 4 (FIFTEEN)
 TWELVE + SIX - SIXTEEN = 2 (SIXTEEN)
 SEVENTEEN - FIFTEEN = 2 (SEVENTEEN)
 EIGHTEEN - NINE - NINE = 0 (EIGHTEEN)
 TWELVE + NINE - NINETEEN = 2 (NINETEEN)
 TWENTY - TEN - TEN = 0 (TWENTY)
 EIGHTEEN + TWENTY - THIRTY = 8 (THIRTY)
 NINETEEN + THIRTY - FORTY = 9 (FORTY)
 EIGHTEEN + FORTY - FIFTY = 8 (FIFTY)
 EIGHTEEN + FIFTY - SIXTY = 8 (SIXTY)
 SEVENTEEN + SIXTY - SEVENTY = 7 (SEVENTY)
 NINETEEN + SEVENTY - EIGHTY = 9 (EIGHTY)
 EIGHTEEN + EIGHTY - NINETY = 8 (NINETY)
 SIXTEEN + NINETY - HUNDRED = 6 (HUNDRED)

Self-Referential Math

Susan Thorpe calculated the alphabetic values (A=1, B=2, .. Z=26) of several numeric words and phrases and found that "61 is PRIME, 81 is SQUARE, and that two ODDS, make an EVEN (23+23=46)." She also discovered these surprising values:

44 PAIR	121 A PALINDROME, EH?
66 A REPEAT	123 ORDINATELY
69 UPENDED	144 ONLY GROSS
96 REVERSED	256 EQUALS SIXTEEN SQUARED
111 THREE OF ONE	366 THREE SIX SIX DAYS ACCRUE IN LEAP YEAR

Count On It

This counting rhyme parody appears in *Liars and Tyrants and People Who Turn Blue* by Barbara Paul (Doubleday, 1980):

One, two, buckle my shoo,
 Three, four, je t'adore.
 Five, six, pick up Styx,
 Seven, eight, Latham Strait,
 Nine, ten, whoyoucallingafathen?

In the Frozen Fish Section at Hy-Vee

On a recent trip to the supermarket, I was looking through the frozen fish section to see if they had anything exotic like shark meat. I glanced over a few hand-packaged items with hand-printed signs, including Halibut and Tuna Steaks, and then I found something that went beyond the exotic and into the erotic--an innocent-looking package marked Cod Pieces.

In Names Only

Jay Ames provided a list of first names accompanied by commentary:

ALLIE a back-street gal
 BLANCHE pales easy
 CORD long and stringy
 DERRICK weight-lifter or club bouncer
 EDDIE whirlpool attendant
 EILEEN has a short leg
 FRIEDA liberated, goes anywhere
 GARRETT dwells in the attic
 GAIL a blow-hard
 HORACE raspy-voiced
 JIMMY a burglar
 KITTY the purrfect playmate
 LUCY needs Kaopectate
 MARY has a positive outlook on life

RICKEY gin and lime freak
 SALLY quick with a rejoinder
 WAYNE on a diet

Isobigram Ladders

Two words of the same length can be paired so that the letters in the same positions form bigrams. When the bigrams are all different, the words are isobigrammatic. WORD PAIR (WP OA RI DR) is a four-letter isobigram pair. MULTIPLICATIVE SOLEMNIZATIONS is a fourteen-letter example. What is the longest pair? An isobigram ladder links the second word in a pair to a new word without repeating any of the bigrams occurring in the ladder. Considering that there are 676 different bigrams, it's easy to construct long ladders for short words (up to six letters in length). What is the longest ladder that can be formed for each word length? (Theoretically, one can construct an isobigram ladder of 339 three-letter words, 226 four-letter words, or 170 five-letter words.) The six-letter ladder below has 54 different bigrams; no doubt it can be continued.

MISTER-PLANET-THIRTY-DORSAL-COPPER-LIQUID-FARCES-PURPLE-
 ANIMAL-GHOSTS

The Gift of Wordplay

Peter Newby gave wordplay presents to his two granddaughters. For Sally, age 14, he wrote the limerick on the left; for Zoe, age 16, the puzzle on the right. For the puzzle, how many ZOE's can you find using the king's move in chess?

Sally, seeking a rhyme for ALLEZ,	O Z O Z O
Settled for the differently-spelt BALLET,	Z E Z E Z
A type of dance	O Z O Z O
Popular in France	Z E Z E Z
From the Languedoc right up to Calais.	O Z O Z O

Split Personality

In this poem by Peter, a tiny creature talks about the process of duplication as a way of life:

Said the amoeba to itself,
 "Rather than stay on the shelf,
 I'll split
 And grow a bit.
 Then I'll be beside myself."

"Word" and "Play"

In the OED, according to Peter's research, "WORED, WOERD, WEORD, WORT, WERD, WRD, and VORT are all obsolete WORDS--literally!!" He also

searched for transposals of PLAY and found a grand total of five. Only one, YALP, is fairly recognizable. The others are colorful, little-known words. With 18 possibilities left, can you find any others?

YALP to exclaim hoarsely
 PYAL a raised platform under a veranda
 PALY somewhat pale; divided by vertical lines (in heraldry)
 PYLA a specific type of opening in the brain
 PAYL an obsolete form of PALE

Geometric Spelling

Peter Newby found the following riddle in *The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes*, which he describes as "Mother Goose Tales in Colonialalese". What's the secret word?

Make three fourths of a cross, and a circle complete,
 And two semicircles on a perpendicular meet;
 Next add a triangle that stands on two feet,
 Next two semicircles and a circle complete.

Dee, Fit a Cat in a Hat: Ah, a Nit! A Cat I Feed

My mother taught me to "look both ways" which may explain why I enjoy writing the occasional palindrome--occasional in the sense that it's written for no other reason than the occasion of writing it. The title palindrome above refers to the popular children's book by Dr. Seuss, *The Cat in the Hat*, and the palindromes below refer to other things. TALARIA are the winged shoes of Mercury, and YAW means to steer erratically.

TURTLE FELT RUT
 GOD, PAL, A LAP DOG
 RACE IT BACK, CAB! TIE CAR!
 SAL, A REGAL TIME TO NOT EMIT LAGER, ALAS!
 TIDE... SUN--O! O, MOON USED IT
 WAS ENOLA GAY A GAL ONE SAW?
 RAT, CENSOR EROS' NECTAR
 WO! VANISH SIN! A VOW
 IN A MIRROR OR RIM, AN "I"
 AIR, A LATE ELF: FLEE, TALARIA!
 YAW A RAFT FAR AWAY

Most Logological Epitaph

Before poet Anne Sexton committed suicide, she asked her daughter to promise her that the words RATS LIVE ON NO EVIL STAR would be engraved on her tombstone. Does anyone know if this request was actually carried out?

Iowa's Goofiest Legislator

A recent article in an Iowa City newspaper described "Iowa's Goofiest Legislators" ranging from a pistol-totin' paranoiac to a "serious dumb ass". The top-ranking goof, Rep. Bob Brunkhorst of Waverly, has a grudge against librarians, and he's introduced bills to exclude libraries from state funding and to require children to bring permission slips for certain library materials. However, a source says "He keeps getting his ass kicked by them (librarians)...They're too smart for him."

Sen. Wally Horn of Cedar Rapids is the best--er, worst--speaker, though he ranks fifth goofiest. Known for his oratorical blunders, his career peaked during a legislative debate a few years ago. According to a lobbyist: "They were debating the size of the ball used in girls' basketball. Some members wanted them to use a smaller ball. When Sen. Horn spoke on the floor, he said 'Girls shouldn't play with men's balls. Their hands are too small.'"

Hiawatha at Hawaii

In the following take-off of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Hiawatha" the letters face forward but they spell the words in reverse. To see them going the right way, hold the poem up to a mirror.

OTTO TUOHTIW OTUA TAHT HTIW
 IIAWAH TA AHTAWAIIH
 --!IXAT A TAHW--IXAT A TIH
 .IMAIM TA ATOYOT A

:YVI OT WOV I TUH A TA
 .IXAT A TIH AHTAWAIIH"
 .HATU OT TUO TI WOT YAM I
 "!YXAW OOT--WOT OT TIAW YAM I

IXAT A HTIW OTTO TUOHTIW
 IIAWAH TA AHTAWAIIH
 -IXAM A--AMIXAM A TIH
 !IMAIM TA (OTUA YM) AM

:AVA HTIW TUH A TA MA I
 .OTUA YM TIH AHTAWAIIH"
 .ITIHAT OT TI WOT YAM I
 ".OTTO OT TOOT OT TIAW YAM I

AHTAWAIIH HTIW YOT YAM I
 .OIHO--AWOI TA TUO
 IXAT HTOMMAM TAHT WOT YAM I
 .UHAO OT--IIAWAH OT

Mix and Match

A comedy routine on the now-defunct radio station WNEW, New York, in 1986 contrasted the violence of football with the civility of baseball:

downs	ups
penalties	errors
helmet	cap
sudden death	home
charging	stealing
stadium (as in War Memorial)	park (as in Comiskey)

Along the same line, the words GANG and TEAM appear interchangeably in several words, but the difference in meaning does change, as shown below. TEAMLAND in Webster's Second Unabridged means "the area of land that is plowed by or supports a plow team". By the way, what is a GANGGANG?

gang up	team up
gangman	team man
gangland	teamland
gangster	teamster