

CYCLIC DIFFERENCE WORDS

REX GOOCH

Welwyn, Herts, England

As discussed in "Word Arithmetic" in the November 1996 Word Ways, there are two ways to construct difference words. The first was examined in detail in "Absolute Difference Words" in February; the second is the subject of this article. Briefly, a cyclic difference word is formed from a source word such as VASE (22,1,19,5) by subtracting the *i*th number from the (*i*+1)st, if necessary adding 26 to the latter to make the difference positive (5 = 27-22, 18 = 19-1, 12 = 31-19, yielding the target word ERL).

The source and target words are all to be found in major dictionaries (OED, Webster's Second, OSPD, Stedman's Medical Dictionary, Pulliam and Carruth's The Complete Word Game Dictionary, American Heritage) or in past issues of Word Ways, or are proper names. A few which are of interest, but for which I have no respectable source, are indicated with a question mark. Acronyms are included at my discretion.

LONGEST WORDS

I found the following numbers of source words, but many are obscure or imperfect (this is an especial problem with three-letter words). The longer words are less frequent than is the case for absolute differences.

Length	7	6	5	4	3
Number	11	163	945	2540	2511

Length 7

DEIDEST?, ADUANA	ACRIDIC, BOQUET	MONTIAN, BYFORM?	ORDERED, CLAMMY
INFORSE, ERICAL	INGRAFT, ESKIEN	WENSKOT, HIERDE	UNWITCH, SILKIE
SLANDER, SOMPAM?	FALUTIN, UKIYOE	PLUMETE, VIRROK	

Length 6 (selection: there are no cases where more than one 6-letter source gives rise to the same target)

TUMEFY, ARRAS	MOPING, BASES	LOPING, CASES	RUCHED, CHEWY	LOAFER, CLEYM
FIXING, COKES	KNIVES, CUMIN	KNIFES, CUWYN	WASHES, DROWN(!)	DINGLE, EESES
PUNGLER, ESSES	FLUING, FINES	FLUMED, FIRRY	HOPING, GASES	TAPERS, GOOMA
NUTHIN, GYNAE	WEFTED, HANKY	GODSIB, HOOPS	OWLING, HOWES	BLATCH, JOSIE
ALDERS, KRAMA	COPING, LASES	WINKED, LEWTY	COXALE, LICKS	COXING, LIKES
REFLUX, MAFIC	REJOIN, MEETE	BOXERS, MIGMA	BOXING, MIKES	NAPING, MOSES
ESTIVE, NAOMI	CRUDES, OCIAN	SHOVES, OGGIN	SHADEW, OSCAR	MENGLER, RISES
GYNGLE, ROSES	SLOWLY, SCHOM	UNWITS, SILKY	BUKLER, SPASM	YSHADE, TOSCA
GASHES, TROWN	AUTUMN, TYARA	PLUMED, VIRRY	HEFTED, WANKY	SPOILT, WYTCH
JINGLE, YESES	POXING, YIKES.			

Length 5 (21 pairs: no triplets etc)

ADMIN/FIRNS, CIVE	INGLE/VATYR, ESES	GLENS/VATCH, ESIE	BIABO/ELDER, GRAM
ENACH/VERTY, IMBE	CLENS/RATCH, ISIE	CLERK/PYREX, ISMS	DOLMA/WHEFT, KWAN
ALKYD/EPOCH, KYNE	RENGA/VIRKE, MIST	ANANA/HUHUH, MMMM	LYNCH/RETIN, MOOE
ETENS?/TITCH, OKIE	HADES/IBEFT, SCAN	EXLAX/LESHE, SNOW	BURAN/FYVER, SWIM
DYLDE/SNAST, UMRA	MIREX/VRANG, VIMS	LINSY/ROTYE, WEEF	DAZYR?/SPONG, WYYS
BANIA/FERME, YMUR.			

Length 5 (selection of more common words)

HILTS, ACHY	KLING, AWES	DEBTS, AWRY!	ACHIM, BEAD	CETIC, BOOT
MODAL, BOWK	BEFIT, CACK	ORSON, CAVY	RUCHE, CHEW	LOWRY, CHUG
ORDER, CLAM!	LOAFS, CLEM	TWINK, CLEW	WAFTS, DENY	SWOTS, DREY
CHIAO, EARN	AGLOW, FECH	TABOT, GAME	HOTLY, GERM	BIRDS, GILO
TAPES, GOON	ELDED, GRAY	GOTA, HENS	BLANC, JOMO (Afro-Frenchman!)	
WHICH, KATE	WINOS, LEAD	WIRES, LIMN	FRANC, LIMO	CODER, LOAM
CODES, LOAN	BODES, LOAN	RETIP, MOOG	NAPES, MOON	THIRD, NAIL
MAZEY, NYET	SHICK, OATH	LAIRG, OHIO	LASED, ORLY (Michel Jarre at work!)	
CROAT, OWLS	KAFKA, PEEP	BRADE, PICA	BRAND, PIMP	BRAUN, PITS
BRAVO, PIUS!	RIDED, QUAY	METIC, ROOT	GYNIC, ROUT	HABIB, SAGS
PILAO, SCON!	PILAU, SCOT	PINKY, SEWN	LEMNA, SHAM (fake duckweed!)	
HAIRE, SHIM	HAIRN, SHIV (a shiv does harm!)		UNWIT, SILK	SLUGS, SILL
SLUIT (= South African ditch), SINK		LENDS, SIPO	SLUNG, SISS	PITCH, SKIE
ATEND, SKIP	UNDIM, SPED	UNHIP, STAG	PICHE, STEW	EYGHE, THAW
GAINS, THEE	KEMBO, THOM	GAPES, TOON	GASTS, TRAY	MINHA, VETS
GCLEF, VISA	HEFTY, WANE	URSON, WAVY (porcupine with curly quills!)	DAIRY, WHIG	SPUKE, WEPT
LINGA (= lingam), WEST		LINHA, WETS	EDIFY, YEWS!	
LIRKS (= wrinkles), WISH!		CASTS, XRAY!		

Length 4 (selection with both "words" familiar)

ZACH, ABE (buddies?)	RSVP, ACT	NOSH, ADO	DEKE, AFT	STAB, AGA
NOVA, AGE	STAN, AGM	HIPE, AGO	HIRE, AIM	STEF, AKA
(Stephanie's alter ego)	HIVE, AMI	EFTS, ANY	KLEP (kleptomaniac), ASK	
TUNA, ASM (fishy Assistant Stage Manager)		GHAT (mountains), ASS		TUNG, ASS (tree)
DEAD, AVC	RSPB, AWL	TURD, AWL	GINO, BEA	GINO, BEA
SUZY, BEY (female governor?)		SUDS, BIO!	GIRL, BIT	MODE, BOA
MODS, BOO	WYND, BOP	SUJI, BOY	KNOB, CAM	FIJI, CAY
LODH (bark used as dye), COD		BETA, COG	BETH, CON	BETS, COY
EIRE, DIM	CHIC, EAT	CHID, EAU	ZEKE, EFT (Greater Water-Newt)	JOAL, ELK
PUGS, ELL	JOAN, ELM	JOEY, EPT	PUKE, EPT	VAST, ERA
INGA, EST	VAUX, ETC	DICK, ETH (Einstein's Alma Mater)	FLUB, FIG	FLAY, FOX!
GMEN, FRI	TABU, GAS	HOPO, GAY (near miss!)	TAFT, GEN	HODS, GOO
TAPE, GOO	WEFT, HAN	GOTH, HEN	WEND, HIP	OWLS, HOG
WETS, HOY	GOGO, HRH	FOAL, ILK	FOAM, ILL	LUGS, ILL
RAND, IMP	RAOC (= Royal Army Ordnance Corps), INN		VETO, IOU	BLUB, JIG
BLAH, JOG	DOTH, KEN	DOTS, KEY	UFOS, KID	GRAN, KIM
COPT, LAD	WINO, LEA	WINS, LEE	OAFS, LEM	UGLY, LEM
WINK, LEW	COTS, LEY	SEND, LIP	FRAU, LIT	CODS, LOO
ANON, MAY	BOTH, MEN	BOWL, MHO	BOBO, MMM	NANA, MMM
NAPE, MOO	DRAY, NIX	MAST, NRA	SHIT, OAK	PEKE, OFT
SHUT, OMY	CROC, OWN	SHES, OWN	SINH, PET (man's best friend calculates hyperbolic sines!)	CRAM, OIL
SINK, PEW	PHIP (chirp of sparrow), RAG		MENU, RIG	MEND, RIP
PINS, SEE	HAFT, SEN	PINK, SEW	HAIN (= park), SHE	LEND, SIP
SLUM, SIR	SLAM, SOL	SLAT, SOS	SLAV, SOU	SLAY, SOX (Red Sox?)
LETS, SOY	UNIV, SUM (School of Mathematics?)	OINK, TEW	GAIN, THE	SMUT, THY!
GAPS, TOC (in Table of Contents)	GAPE, TOO	SNOT, UAE (United Arab Emirates)		

SNOG, UAR (United Arab Republic)	TOGS, URL (clothes on the Internet)	SOPS, VAC	MILD, VCR
MINH, VET (those Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs again!)	MIRE, VIM	SODA, VOW	PLAY, VOX
HEFT, WAN	DAFT, WEN	RODS, WOO	DAZE, WYE
TRAY, XIX (not the eighteenth tray, but...)	YVES, WIN	BABY, YAW (flying infant!)	SPOT, WYE
BAFT, YEN (behind)	JINK, YEW	FEND, YIP	ONCE, YOB.

Again, personal names seem to appear frequently.

TREES

There are potentially five trees of depth six, but unfortunately none continue past the four-letter words: RETAIN-MOGHE-BRAW, ELDERS-GRAMA-KILN, MOGHAL-BRASK-PIRR, PUTAIN-EYGHE-THAW, SIXAIN-POCHE-YNEW.

152 trees of depth five were found. Three examples with "double headers" are LADLE/STICH-AOTE?-NEK-QF, DYLDE/SNAST-UMRA-REI-MD, BRAVI?/SABOT-HAME-SLR-SF.

Here is a selection of examples chosen for their familiar four-letter words, arranged in order of the three-letter words.

WAFTS - DENY - AIK - HB	OVEST - GINA - BEM - CH	FLUIT - FINK - CEW - BR
EYVES - TWIN - CLE - IS	AMBIX? - LOGO - CRH? - OP	FLUYD - FIDE - CUA - RF
URSON - WAVY - DUC - QH	OUGLY - FLEM - FSH? - MO	IRGUN - IONS - FYE - SF
AFRET - ELMO (saint) - GAB - TA	CROAT - OWLS - HOG - GR	LOAFS - CLEM - ISH - JO
DAIRY - WHIG - KAX - PW	SWLDE - DORA - KCI? - RF	ORGUN - CONS - LYE - MF
ACROA? - BOWL - MHO - UG	WASTS - DRAY - NIX - UO	TILDE - OCRA - NOI - AT
HAIRE - SHIM - OAD - LC	HAIRN - SHIV - OAM - LL	RUMBE - CROC - OWN - HQ
SLUIT - SINK - PEW - OR	EUCLE? - PHIS - RAJ - II	LAIRG - OHIO - SAF - HE
HAMBY? - SLOW - SCH - JE	BRAUN - PITS - SKY - RN	SABOT - HAME - SLR - SF
WINOS - LEAD - SVC - CG	DEBTS - AWRY - VUG - YL	GOTHA - HENS - WIE - LV
GASTS - TRAY - XIX (numeral) - KO		

1764 trees of depth four were found. Notably, one had six four-letter sources: ALAL/DODO/JUJU/NYNY/PAPA/TETE-KOK-DV. None had five four-letter sources, but here are some of the sixteen with four-letter ones:

DIRD/GLUG/INWI/TYHT-EIL-DC	BELK/KNUT/ORYX/VYFE-CGY-DR
IREN/PYLU/VERA/YHUD-IMI-DV	CHUN/PUHA/TYLE/VANG-EMS-HF
EXAN/PILY/SLOB/VORE-SCM?-JJ	GOGO/MUMU/SASA/WEWE-HRH-JP
GENJ/KIRN/TRAW/WUDZ-XIV-KM	CHAU/GLEY/INGA/TYRL-EST-NA
DAST/OLDE/ROGH/ZWOP-WRA-UI	ERAN/IVER/RENA/VIRE-MIM-VD

Here are trees of depth four using common words or expressions for both the three-letter and at least one four-letter words (extra branches have been left):

AI, DEN, WAFT	CH, LOW, CODA	CI, BEN, MOTH
CO, FIX, FLUS	CV, BEA, GINO/MOTU/WYDE	CX, FIG, FLUB
CY, ILK, FOAL/YHTE	DC, IMP, RAND	DM, WAN, HEFT
EB, VAC, SOPS	EF, TYE, GAZE	EN, AFT, DEKE
ER, JOG, BLAH/SCRY	FF, AGM, STAN	FF, IOU, VETO
FH, AGO, HIPE/STAP	FI, YEN, BAFT	FR, CIA, BENO/FIRS/RUDE
FR, YEW, JINK	FT, AGA, STAB	GA, ELM, JOAN
GN, HOC, EMBE/SAPS	GR, HOG, OWLS/WETA	GS, BIB, GIRT
HD, AIM, HIRE/UVER	HI, WEN, DAFT/ROTH	HO, WET, ROTN (phonetic!)
HQ, OWN, CROC/SHES/TIFT	II, FOX, FLAY	JG, YIP, FEND
JP, HRH, GOGO/MUMU/SASA/WEWE	LC, COR, ORGY!	LR, COG, BETA/FIXE
LR, SEW, PINK	LY, CON, BETH	MD, VIM, MIRE/VRAN
MI, ERA, VAST	ML, BOA, CETU/GIXY/MODE	NL, MAM, NABO/REFS

NW, THE, AUCH/GAIN
 PI, SIR, SLUM
 QN, OFT, PEKE
 SH, LEM, OAFS/UGLY
 SI, VOX, PLAY
 ST, LEY, COTS
 TA, GAB, ELMO
 TI, KEN, DOTH
 UG, MHO, BOWL
 VF, SOU, LETO/SLAV
 VO, AWL, RSPB/TURD
 WK, LIT, FRAU/WIRL

OC, LAD, COPT
 PM, YOB, ONCE
 RI, MEN, BOTH
 SH, VOW, SODA
 SN, LES, WING
 ST, PIC, BRAD
 TB, ICE, CLOT/VEHM
 TR, GAS, HOPI/TABU
 UO, NIX, DRAY
 VI, SOX, SLAY/UNCA
 VS, EAT, CHIC
 XL, CAM, KNOB

OR, PEW, SINK (no, that's the font!)
 QN, ARF, TUMS
 RN, SKY, ATED/BUFE/HALK/PITS
 SI, BUD, SUPT
 SR, LEW, FRWT/UGLI/WINK
 SV, LEA, MYDE/WINO
 TC, OIL, CRAM
 TT, KEY, DOTS
 VD, SOS, DWLE/HAPI/SLAT
 VJ, SOY, LETS
 WG, LIP, SEND
 XU, KID, UFOS!

PALINDROMES

Of the three of length five found, only ALALA-KOKO is interesting; the other two are ANANA/HUHUH-MMMM.

Of the many of length three, only the following have much appeal: the contradictory NON, AY; DOD and PAP both KO but TIT is OK with DAD and LIL on WC. There only remains SOS, VD! There are typically many source words per target word; for example, the WC has five other source words.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Many thanks to Susan Thorpe, who provided practically all the references to earlier work. Until then I thought the cyclic method was my idea!

KICKSHAWS

DAVE MORICE

Iowa City, Iowa

Readers are encouraged to send their favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws editor. All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue. His e-mail address is David-Morice@uiowa.edu.

MORE RELATIVE CITIES

Iowa City, Iowa is a Junior City, as you can see. In the last Kickshaws, Dan Tilque provided a list of many Junior Cities and some Illegitimate Cities (like Nevada City, California). One particularly unusual trio are the Junior/Illegitimate triplets, Kansas City, Kansas/Missouri, Oregon. Dan has found some more relative cities which appear in the list below. Dan's also found another of the rare same-state combo name, the best-known of which is New York, New York: he adds Indiana, Indiana. He also notes that "logically, there's one more category: towns named the same as another state (e.g., Michigan, North Dakota)". However this has already been covered in Word Ways. In the November 1970 issue, Darryl Francis reported finding some 200 such places and constructed a chain of them.

ILLEGITIMATE CITIES:

Arkansas City KS (Cowley)
 Colorado City TX (Mitchell)
 Kansas City OR (Washington)
 Michigan City IN (La Porte) MS (Benten)
 Missouri City TX (Fort Bend)
 Nevada City CA (Nevada)
 Ohio City CO (Gunnison)
 Texas City IL (Saline)
 Virginia City MT (Madison) NV (Storey)

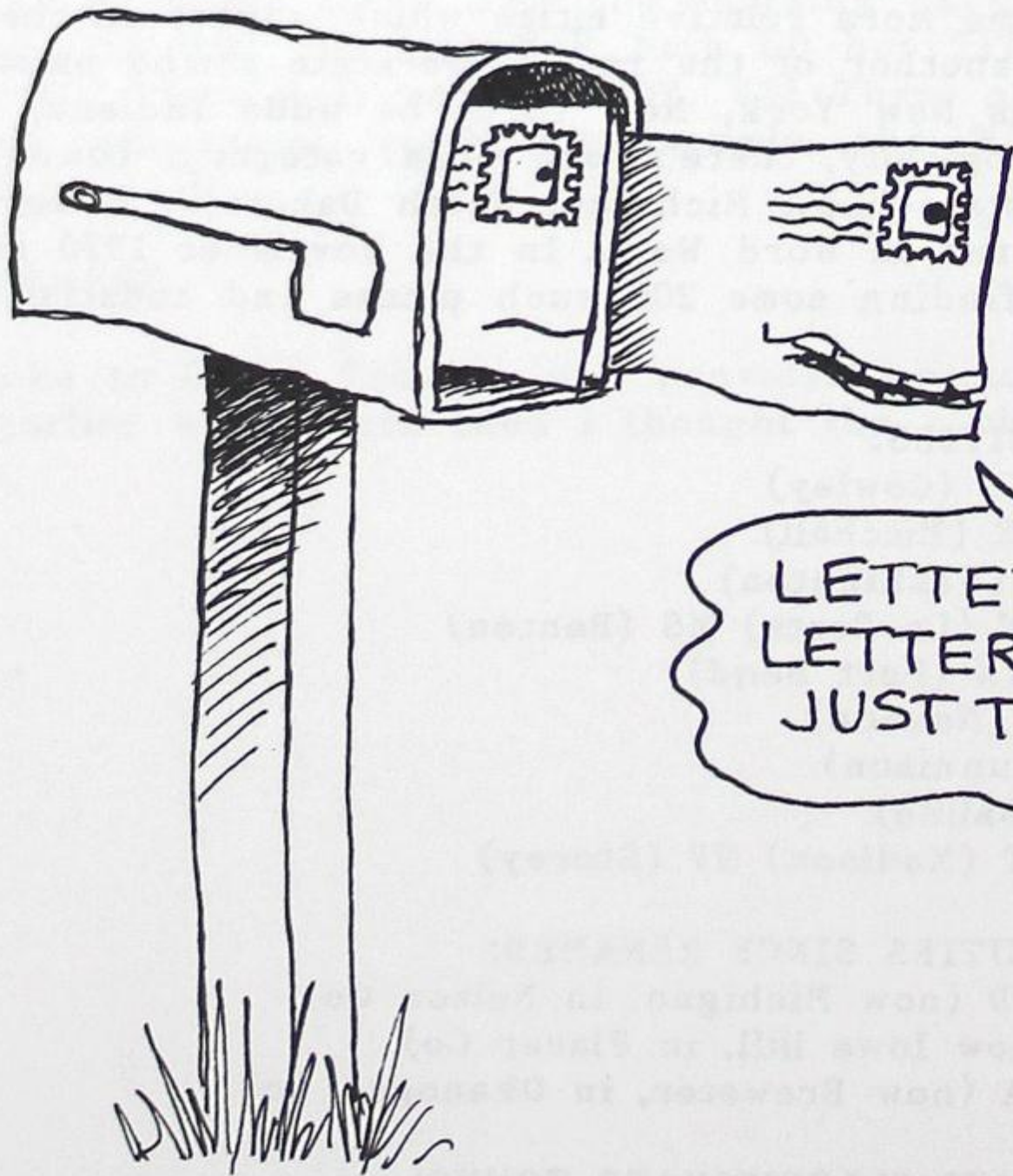
ILLEGITIMATE CITIES SINCE RENAMED:

Michigan City ND (now Michigan, in Nelson Co)
 Iowa City CA (now Iowa Hill, in Placer Co)
 Virginia City WA (now Brewster, in Okanogan Co)

JUNIOR TOWNS AND ILLEGITIMATE TOWNS:

Floridatown FL
 Kentucky Town TX
 Michigantown IN

HOMONYMS



LETTER FOR
LETTER, WE'RE
JUST THE SAME -

AH, PLAN "ALPHA"

Unlike English, some foreign alphabets give their letters names. Greek is a good example: alpha, beta, gamma... So is Hebrew: aleph, beth, gimel... And several other alphabets. These names, which are words in English, too, suggest a palindromic challenge--to write a palindrome containing each letter in a foreign alphabet. The best of dromes fit into relatively normal phrases or sentences, and the worst of dromes use single letters, but sometimes that can't be avoided. Here is one drome for each Greek letter, the best I could do in each case. Can you improve on them? Can you do the same with Hebrew, Arabic, or other languages?

Ah, plan "alpha"
 At ebb, beta
 O, gamma...go!
 Delta rat led
 No lisp, epsilon
 I ate zeta, I!
 He ate eta, eh?
 At...eh...theta
 An iota to Ina
 A map, Pa! Kappa, Ma
 Ad BMA lambda
 Mu? Mum!

Nu? Fun!
 Draw six xi's, Ward
 Omicron or "C"? I'm "O"
 Pi: hip!
 Oh, rho
 Sigma? MG is
 Tau a "T"?
 No lisp, upsilon
 A phi..."H", Pa?
 No chi..."H"? Con
 Psi lisp
 A gem: omega

AT THE ALPHADROME

Here's a simple challenge to top off the previous one. Can you fit the word ALPHABET into a palindrome that sounds not-too-unusual? Here are my first few attempts at it:

TRAP AN ALPHABET ON A NOTE? BAH! PLAN APART
 NATE SOLICITS ALPHABET ON A NOTE? BAH! PLASTIC! I LOSE TAN
 RISE, MAN! AN ALPHABET ON A NOTE? BAH! PLAN A NAME, SIR
 AN ALPHABET ON A NOTE? BAH! PLAN "A"
 TEN? ALPHABET ON A NOTE? BAH, PLANET!

OZYMANDIAS AT THE FLEA MARKET

I met a traveler at an antique show
 Who said: Two small and trunkless legs on plastic
 Stand on my table...Near them, not below,
 Half cracked, a shattered Barbie lies, elastic,
 Whose wrinkled lip, and frown as cold as snow,
 Tell that its maker well those passions knew
 Which yet survive, stamped on her collectible knees,
 The hand that packed them, and the arm that threw:
 And on her lower back these words appear:
 "My name is Surfin' Barbie, Queen of Seas:

Look on my build, ye Buyer, and despair!"
 Nothing beside remains. Round the display
 Of that minuscule wreck, clothesless and bare,
 The other dealers' stands stretch far away.

WORDS FOR JAN'S FANS

Jan Anderson writes "Since I started contributing to Word Ways, readers have been asking to know more about me. Olive Noaf in particular expressed admiration for the alliteration of my name and asks if it's a phony.

"No, Olive, when I married, I kept my name, but there's a story to that, and some of it's true. My husband shortened his last name when he entered show business, and in the interest of protecting my innocent self in case any of the following read this, I won't tell you what his name is now, but it sounds something like Duty. When I met him he was a longterm diehard bachelor. But he explained that part of the reason for that was that most girls he dated had first names that wouldn't go well with Duty. There were Jackie, Susie, Nancy--but worst was Dottie, who would have become Dottie Betty Duty. One love who almost overcame the name obstacle was Sandy, but in the end she married Randy, and they really did (I swear!) name their kids Andy and Candy. Randy was handy and worked for Tandy. Mr D. liked to bandy it about that their maid was Mandie from the Rio Grande, and that their dog was a Dandie named Brandy. If I hadn't promised not to become Jan D., he, D., would still be a bachelor, because Beryl married Merrill, and Carol, Darryl.

"How'd he do, D., in show biz? Some say his acting was wooden, but I think his manager didn't pull the right strings."

A FROST UPDATE

Apparently there are a few Frost aficionados out there, because Jan also forwarded this fan mail from Jason Drenan: "You're both wrong! It's not woods, it's not hoods, it's hoots!"

Stopped By Hoots Of A Snowy Owl

Whose hoots these are I'm certain, though
 Her home's far north; she's lost, I know.
 Her wide eyes see me stopping here
 To hear her hoot from throat of snow.

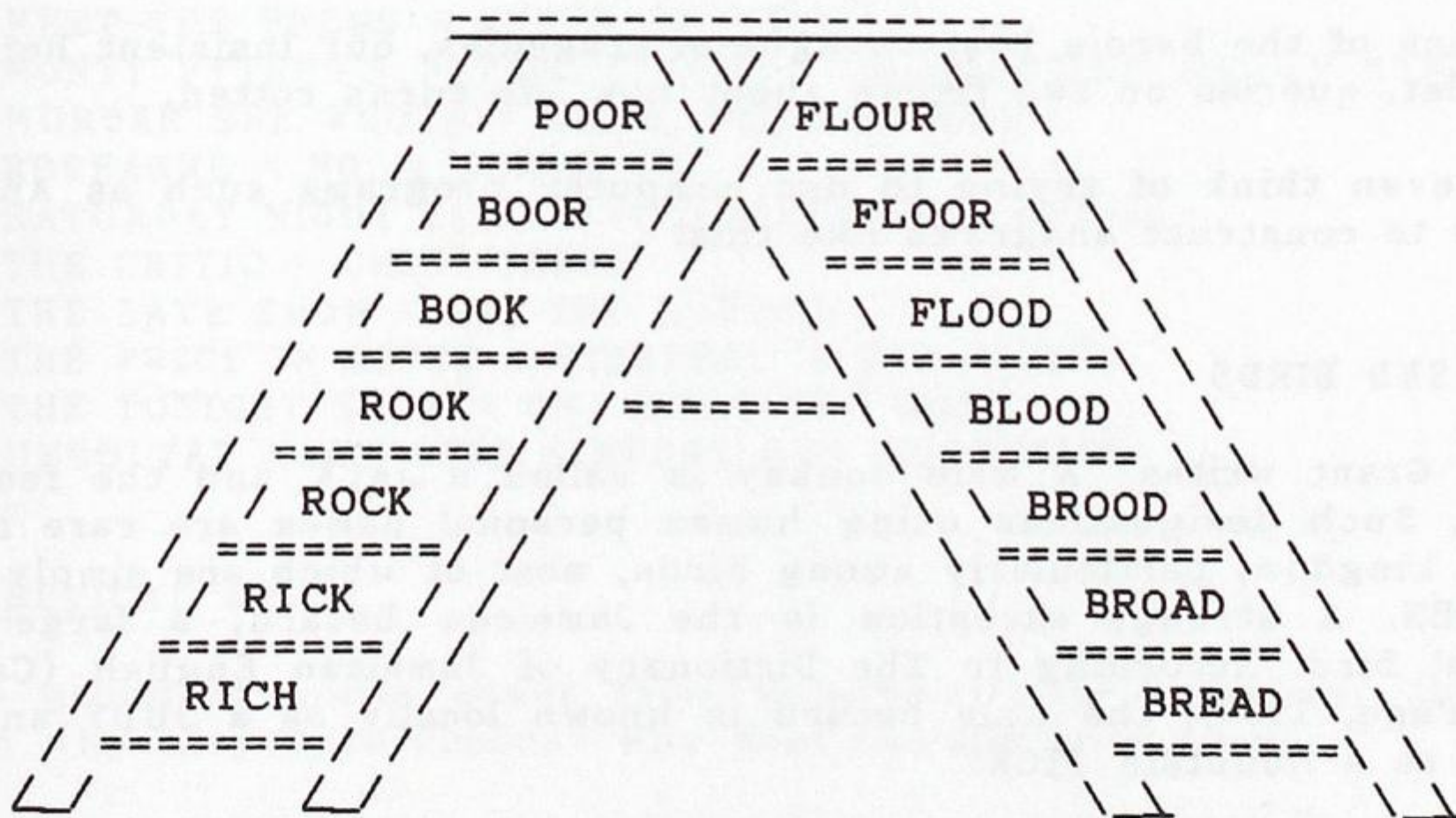
My little Setter cocks his ear;
 We've stopped where there's no pheasant near,
 No partridge, grouse, quail, hen or drake,
 No rabbit running and no deer.

He gives his tail a short stiff shake,
 As if to ask, Is dinner steak?
 The only birdsound's sure no peep--
 But hoots to keep the dead awake.

I shoot, and fry the downy heap;
 Then from the precipice I creep,
 In smiles to gobble forage cheap,
 In smiles to gobble forage cheap.

Jason explained to Jan that "hunters perform an important ecological service in culling the wild of the sick and unfit" to which she replied "Right, Jas, so you eat the sick and make trophies of the unfit?"

A REAL WORD LADDER



FROM BLACK TO WHITE

In 1879 Lewis Carroll introduced the game of Doublets in the pages of *Vanity Fair*, challenging readers to go from one word to another of the same number of letters, changing one letter at a time to form linking words, in as few steps as possible. Among the challenges he gave readers was BLACK TO WHITE, which must take at least five steps; the best solution took two more:

BLACK-blank-blink-clink-chink-chine-whine-WHITE

He said it was de rigeur that all links should be English words "such as might be used in good society". (In a published edition of *Doublets*, he included a list of approximately 1400 words of three to six letters that he considered socially acceptable.) Logologists such as Rex Gooch

are not bound by such strictures, as shown by the following "snake and ladder" (BLACK to WHITE and back) using headwords from the OED:

BLACK-blank-wlank-whank-whane-whine-WHITE-whate-wlate-alate-
alace-alack-BLACK

Alas, it is still not the minimum!

AN ANAGRAM OF HAMLET'S SOLILOQUY

Darryl Francis reports the following anagram of one of Hamlet's soliloquies on the Internet:

To be or not to be, that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune...

In one of the Bard's best-thought-of tragedies, our insistent hero, Hamlet, queries on two fronts about how life turns rotten.

Don't even think of trying to use computer programs such as Anagram Genius to construct anagrams like this!

CONFUSED BIRDS

Jeff Grant writes "A male donkey is called a JACK and the female a JENNY. Such designations using human personal names are rare in the animal kingdom, particularly among birds, most of which are simply COCK and HEN. A strange exception is the Jamaican becard, a large-billed tropical bird. According to The Dictionary of Jamaican English (Cassidy & Le Page, 1985), the male becard is known locally as a JUDY and the female as a Mountain DICK!"

MORE SQUARE ROOT WORDS

Sir Jeremy Morse notes that FIVE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX (24 letters) is a square root word. There is also THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FOUR (34 letters) and SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE (41 letters). An obvious sixth root word is ONE MILLION (10 letters) and a ninth root word (in the United States) is ONE BILLION (10 letters).

MORE TV SHOW TITLE ANAGRAMS

Jed Martinez adds two more anagrams of TV programs from the current season:

PEARL = RE: PAL

EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND = VERVE BY ROMANO? ODDLY, YES!

Mike Morton cranked up his anagram generator and came up with a large number of these ("none of my entries won").

AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS = AMATEUR MOVIE FINISHES
SECOND

AMERICAN GLADIATORS = LACERATION DIAGRAMS

CHARLIE'S ANGELS = CHASE LEAN GIRLS

DR. QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN = I'D CONDEMN WARM QUININE

GENERAL HOSPITAL = LOATHING, RELAPSE

GRACE UNDER FIRE = FIERCE GRANDEUR

GROWING PAINS = GROIN-PAWINGS

HOMICIDE = OH, I'M ICED

I DREAM OF JEANNIE = OR A FEMININE JADE

LETTERMAN = LET ME RANT

MEET THE PRESS = SHEER TEMPEST

MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS = CONFLICTING, RUSTY SYMPHONY

MURDER SHE WROTE = TRUE, MORE SHREWD

ROSEANNE = NO, A SNEER

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE = VULGARITY, SIN, DEATH

THE CRITIC = CHIC? TRITE!

THE LATE SHOW = HA, THE LOWEST!

THE PRICE IS RIGHT = HIPSTER: "I GET RICH"

THE TONIGHT SHOW = OH, TIGHT NEW HOST

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES = EVERY OLD MUSTINESS

ALPHABETICAL ARDOR

This group of words comes from Webster's 10th Collegiate. Can you explain why they were chosen? Why does the list stop here?

A	EAGER	IDENTICAL	MAGNETOSTATIC
BY	FABLED	JACKBOOTED	NASOPHARYNGEAL
CIS	GAINFUL	KINDHEARTED	OMNIDIRECTIONAL
DAFT	HABITUAL	LABYRINTHIAN	PHENOMENOLOGICAL

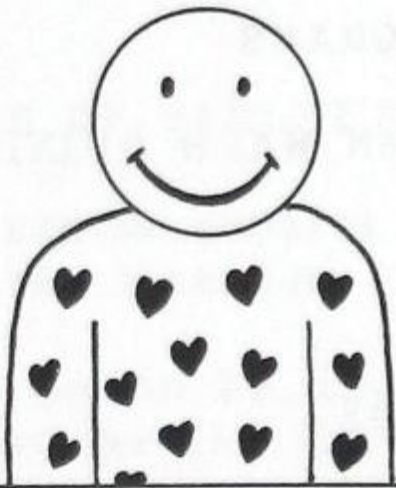
WHAT IS THE MEANING?

Fred Crane has this short, tricky quiz. The question in each case is "What is the meaning of ----?" One clue: the answers for the clues in the left column form one kind of numerical progression, and the answers for the right form another.

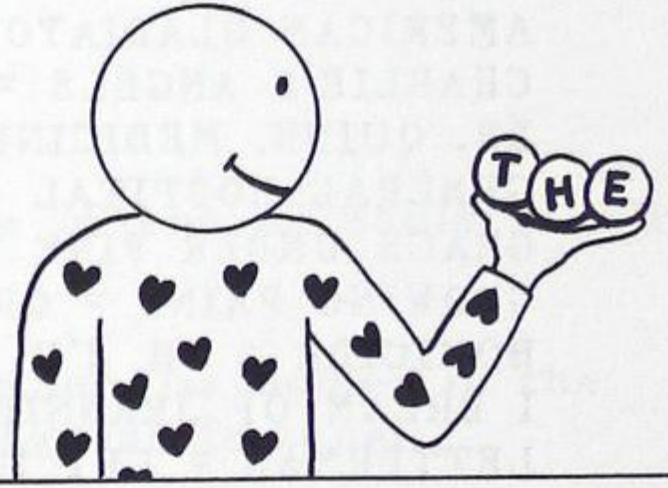
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Rolodex | 4. mo |
| 2. no no | 5. pe |
| 3. Hamlet Hamlet Hamlet | 6. h |
| | 7. w |

Definite and Indefinite Articles

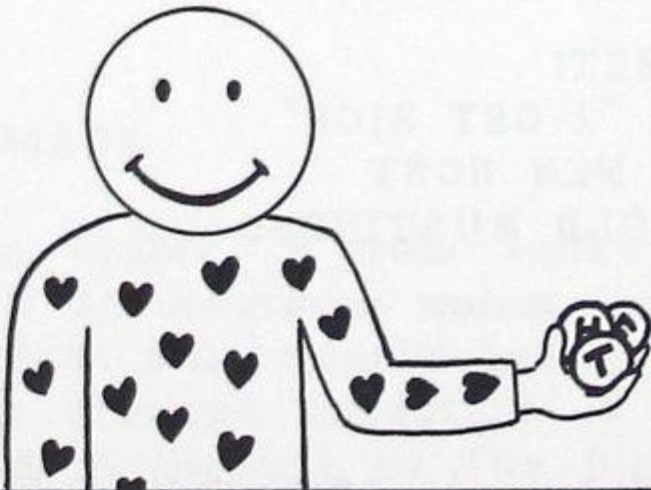
THE, WHICH SEEMS THE MEREST PARTICLE,



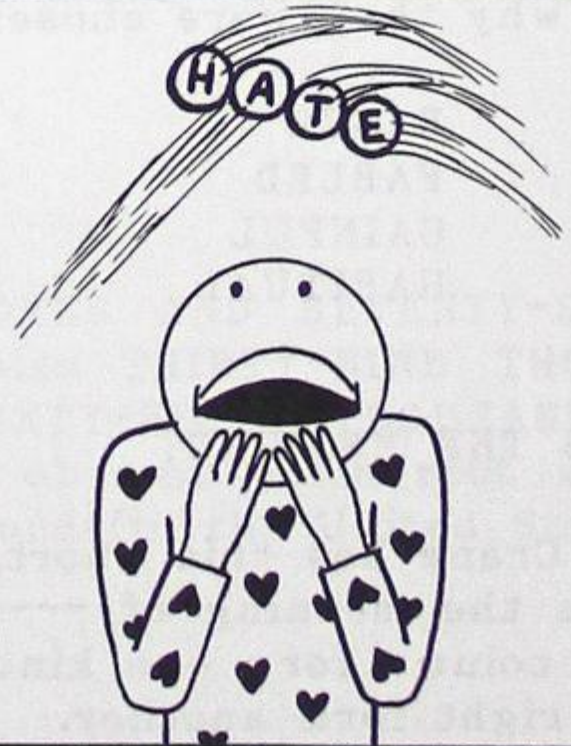
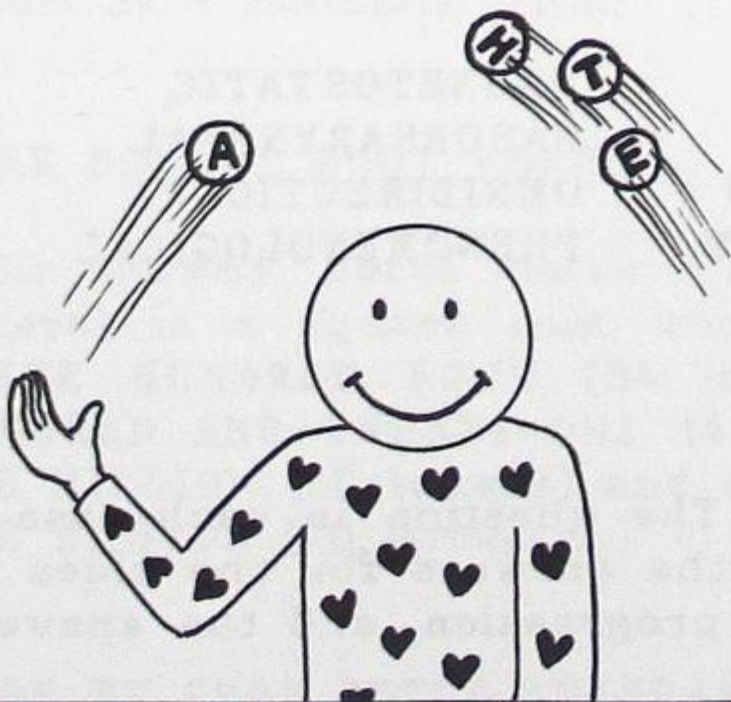
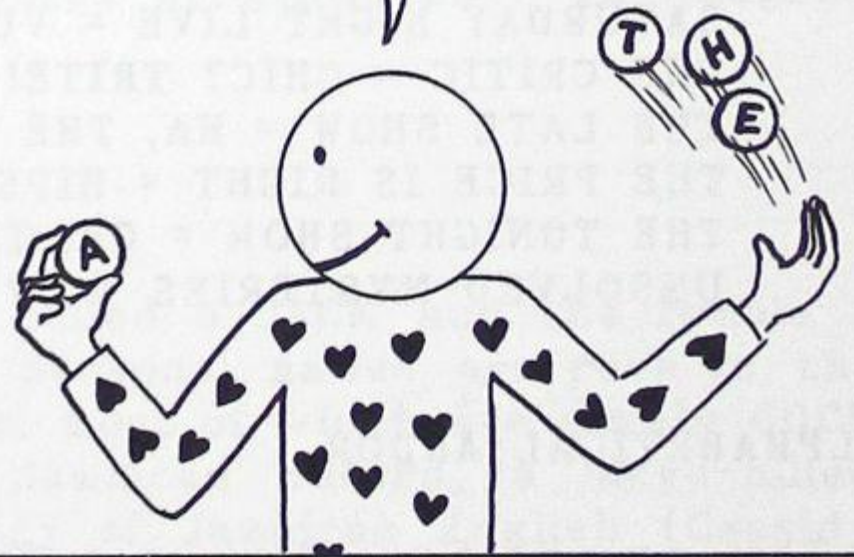
IN POINT OF FACT'S A DEFINITE ARTICLE—



THE WORD WE MAKE MORE USE OF EVERY DAY



THAN ANY ARTICLE EXCEPT FOR A.



VERTICAL LINEAGE

Howard Bergerson writes "I remember a little boy who always signed his name by first making ten vertical lines ||||| and then adding twelve more straight lines. Can you duplicate the boy's feat? Can you come up with a longer name that works the same way?"

NOTED PHILOSOPHERS

This short list of philosophers, sent by David Armstrong, shows an unusual verbal relationship (or counterrelationship) shared by these thinkers:

GEORGE WILL, ROLLO MAY, HERMAN KAHN, ROBERT WOOD, IMMANUEL KANT

NOTABLE NICKNAMES

David has provided a long list of names, each of which turns into a word or words when the appropriate nickname is substituted:

AL CIBIADES	DOMINICK INO
ALLEN FRESCO	PATRICIA RIOTIC
WILLIAM OF SALE	YANKEE DOODLE DANIEL D
NICHOLAS OF THYME	ELIZABETH ARD
RAYMOND OF HOPE	MARGARET O MIHART
ROBERT O'LINK	ELEANOR PHANT
HICKORY RICHARD DRYDOCK	KATHERINE Y DIDDE
SALLY AMANDA	MARGERY ARINE
HAROLD ITOSIS	THEODORE RISE
DANIEL DRUFF	CALVIN I FOURNIER
BROWN, ELIZABETH	ALAN T TUDE
JAMES NASTICS	STANLEY DORFAL
EDWARD D BEAR	GLORIA WORM
DOROTHY YORIZE	TIMOTHY ID
CHARLES RICHARD ENS	THOMAS ATO
VERNON A CULAR	SUSAN T ABLE
NORMAN ALCY	NATHANIEL URAL
GUSTAVE TATORY	HERBERT I VOROUS
HIRAM DEHOE	ARTHUR X HIBIT
MICHAEL ROBE	LESTER ISMORE
SALLY MONELLA	GENEVA TILITY

THE PROSE POSER

Peter Newby has come up with several one-liners that ask questions that revolve around wordplay in one way or another. Here are a couple of them. More will follow in future Kickshaws:

Do EX'S change SEX?
Is the OED God's drow?

HEAD TEETH

According to Peter, "Nicknamed 'a sulk made flesh', Sir Edward Heath was, like Herbert Hoover, a petulant bachelor obsessed with being in the Eurotent 'issing pout' rather than outside 'issing pin'. He features in this nursery rhyme of mine:

Off we go, bag and baggage,
Singing the praise of Chancellor Cabbage.
Goodbye to England, it's the Fourth Reich for us!
And now, my kiddies, join in the chorus;
Visionaries of Peace know what's best, I'm sure,
Chamberlain, Halifax and Sir Edward Haw Haw."

FIRST PALINDROME

My son Danny (now 8) and I were going to Walmart to find a Valentine's Day card for his mother. On the way I was going over possible Valentine dromes in my head, and I jotted down a couple on the back of my checkbook. Danny asked what I was doing, and I told him I was making up Valendromes. When we parked in the lot, he picked up the pen and checkbook and said "Is this a palindrome?" Then he carefully printed DOG IS I, GOD. I now await his first ten-square--at age 10.

TONGUE TWISTERS

Mark Saltveit has a couple of tongue-twisters that rival the famous Sixth Sheik's twister. Can you honestly say these six times without a single error?

Susie's choosy sushi chef sews Susy cheap Sioux shoes she'd choose
She'd seize sheep cheese; chief cheap sheep cheese seizer is she

FROM LONG WORD TO FULL SENTENCE

In general, longer words have more potential for full-sentence anagrams than shorter words do. ANTIDISESTABLISHMENTARIANISM anagrams into a line that could've been uttered by Pablo Picasso: I AM AN ARTIST, AND I BLESS THIS IN ME. It can also form plenty of other sentences, such as these two very different responses to the Picasso line:

HIS ART IS IN, MAN. A MIND-BLAST! SEE IT?
I'M A SENSIBLE MAN, AND I HIT ARTISTS

WORD PLAYLET

Words talk. They say what the dictionary says they say. This playlet quotes 26 words just chewing the fat on a warm summer's day while a gentle breeze turns the fluttering pages of a Webster's 7th Collegiate dictionary. Each word is a character, and what it says includes one or more of its definitions.

JAR Shh! A harsh grating sound! This must indicate a state or manifestation of conflict.

PUSHBALL Oh, no, it's just a game in which each of two sides endeavors to push an inflated leather-covered ball six feet in diameter across its opponent's goal.

EUPEPSIA They must have good digestion to do that.

TIGHTS I'll say! Look at those skintight garments covering the body from the neck down or from the waist up.

MORES They just reflect the fixed morally-binding customs of a particular group.

LOVELY In any case, they certainly are delightful for beauty, harmony, or grace. How beautiful!

BATHYMETRY Definitely, like the measurement of depths of water in oceans, seas and lakes.

DREAMY I can tell you're given to dreaming or fantasy. Then again, this game has begun to have the quality or characteristics of a dream. It's quiet or soothing. Even delightful, pleasing.

CARAPACE If I were playing, I'd prefer a hard protective outer covering.

YATAGHAN Uh-oh. Someone just pulled out a long knife or short saber common among Muslims that is made without a cross guard and usually with a double curve to the edge and a nearly straight back. Now he's swinging it!

KRIS Don't exaggerate! That's just a Malay or Indonesian dagger with a ridged serpentine blade.

OVERTRAIN Perhaps he trained more than is necessary or desirable.

UNDULATE That could be. He's starting to move or cause to move in wavy, sinuous or flowing manner.

WHACK What was that smart or resounding blow? Look! He just cut something off with a whack! He got the other guy right in the...

QUADRICEPS Omigod! The great extensor muscle of the front of the thigh divided above into four parts. That guy's hurt!

APPENDECTOMY You sure it wasn't just the surgical removal of the vermiform appendix?

VENDING MACHINE Are you kidding? Now he looks like a slot machine for vending merchandise.

RING They're starting to place or form a circle around him.

XANTHATE Give him a salt or ester of xanthic acid!

FREE-FOR-ALL Look out! This is becoming a competition, dispute, or fight open to all comers and usually with no rules!

NAUTCH Did you think this was an entertainment in India consisting chiefly of dancing by professional dancing girls?

HARP Let's not dwell on or recur to a subject tiresomely or monotonously.

ZUCHETTO Hey, you! Remove that small round skullcap worn by Roman Catholic ecclesiastics in colors that vary according to the rank of the wearer. I can't see!

I You must be an excessively egotistic person.

GOOSEFLESH I'm afraid. I feel a roughness of the skin produced by erection of its papillae usually from cold or fear.

SCAREHEAD Tomorrow you'll read about it in a big, sensational or alarming newspaper headline!

MORE STEREOWORDS

Remember the Stereowords in the August 1992 Kickshaws? Here are a few more of these eyeball-busters. Focus your eyes as if you're looking in the distance until the two dots above the box merge to form a third dot in the center. The box itself will divide into three boxes, and the stereoword will appear in the center box.

ONLY M E

S O NOW

VINE WIN S

A BLE GAM E

LOW C O N

ELVIS LIVES

HOLY SCHWARZKOPF!

Rod BLAGOJEVICH, Democratic candidate for Congress in Illinois, joins the thin ranks of those endowed with 11-letter names composed of all

different letters. How rare are 12-letter names? Ask Alan KIRSCHENBAUM, executive director of the TV series Coach.

PASSIVE RESISTANCE

Ghandi
Is dandy,
But liquor
Is quicker.

PIG PENMANSHIP

Midway between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids on Highway 380, there's a farm with a small pyramid-shaped house especially designed for the privacy of two porcine sweethearts. The sign on the house used to say PHARAOH-ING PIGS. Then one day a local TV news station did a short expose on it, and the love sty was famous state-wide. A few days later the sign was removed. Now there are no sexist pigs in Iowa.

WINDY DAY WRITING

As I'm finishing this, my window is open. The gentle breeze is turning into a major jet stream. In fact, it's so bad that I can barely keep the alphabet on the page...

The diagram illustrates the effect of a strong breeze on writing. At the top, a single letter 'g' is positioned. Below it, the letters 'fg' and 'hhj' appear. The next row contains 'd e f h j k m n r p q t w y z'. The following row shows 'b d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r t u w x'. The letters continue to spread and overlap as they move down, with rows containing 'a a b d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r t u w v x', 'a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r t u w v x', 'a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r t u w v x', and so on, until the bottom row which contains the full alphabet 'abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz'.