

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)

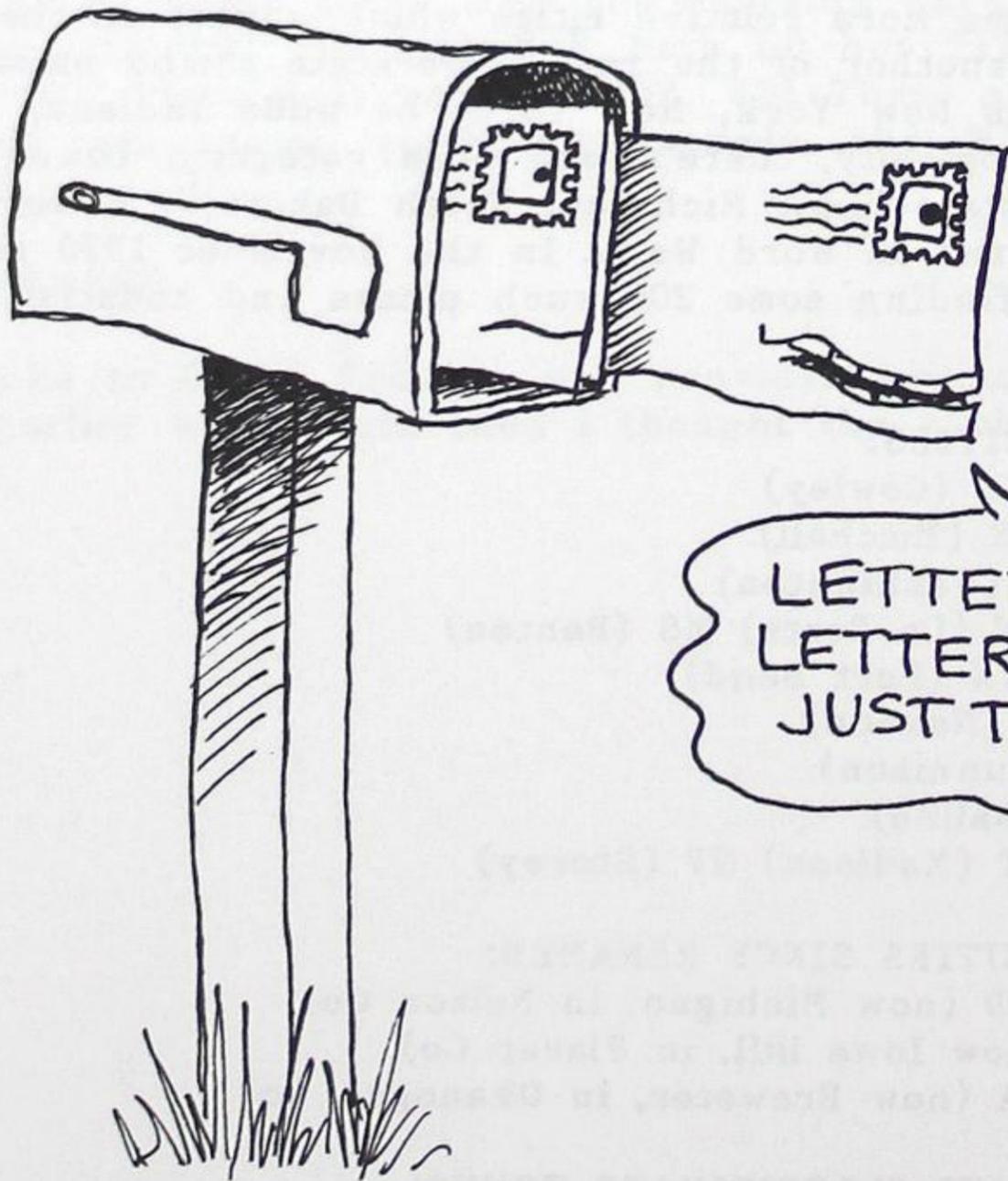
ILLEGITIMATE CITIES SINCE RENAMED:

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.

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?

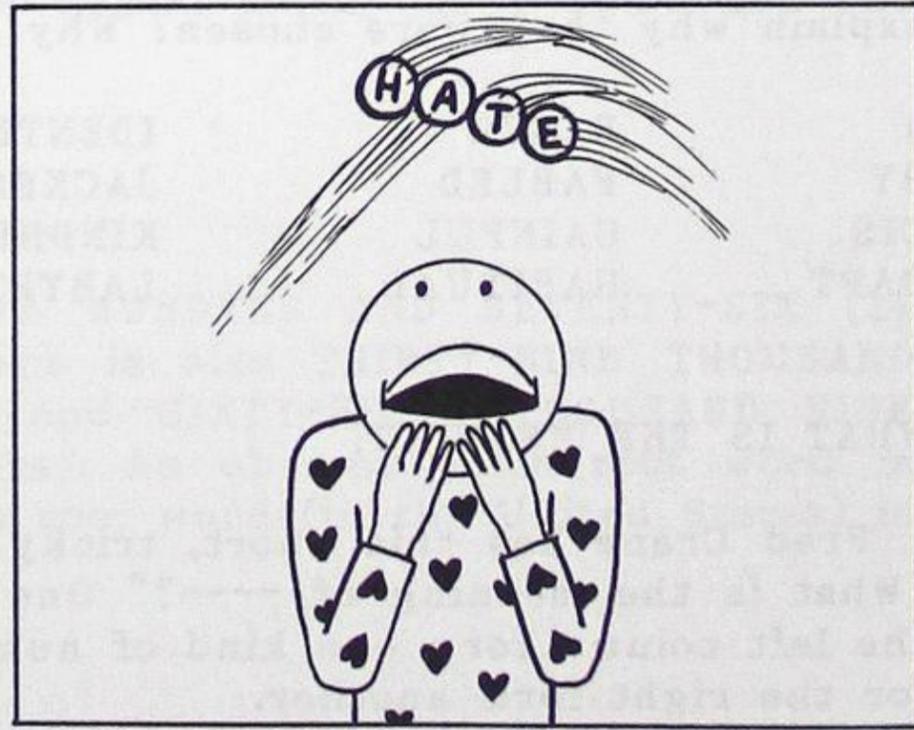
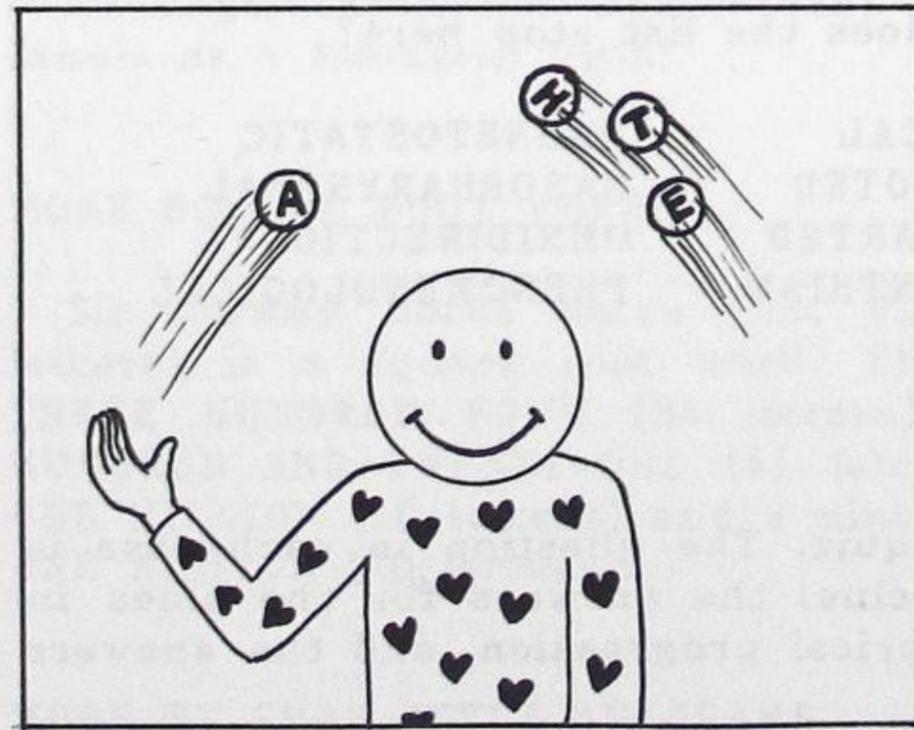
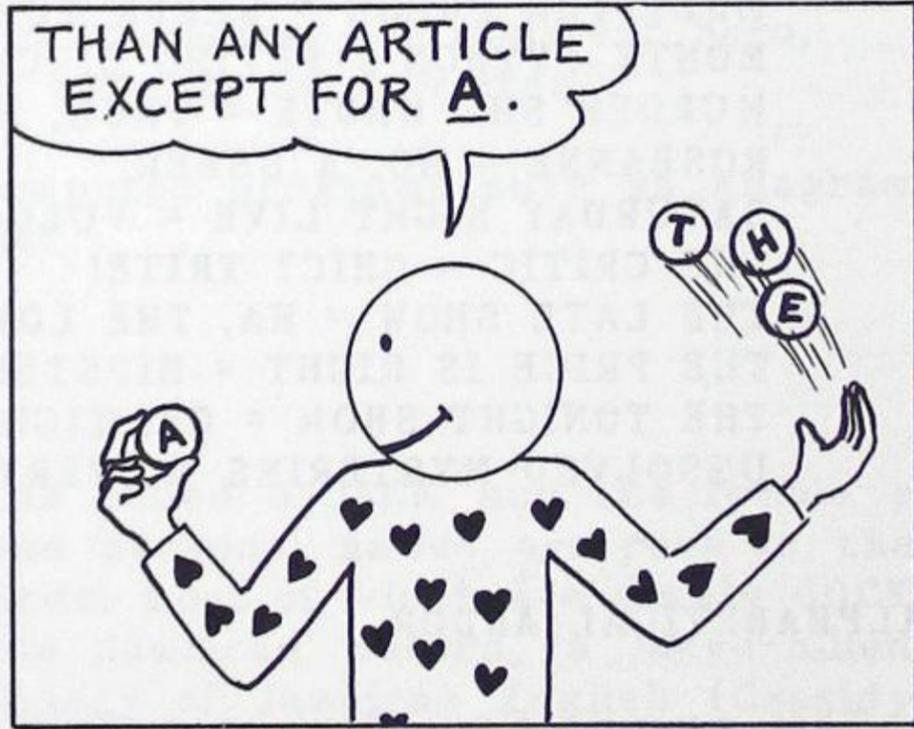
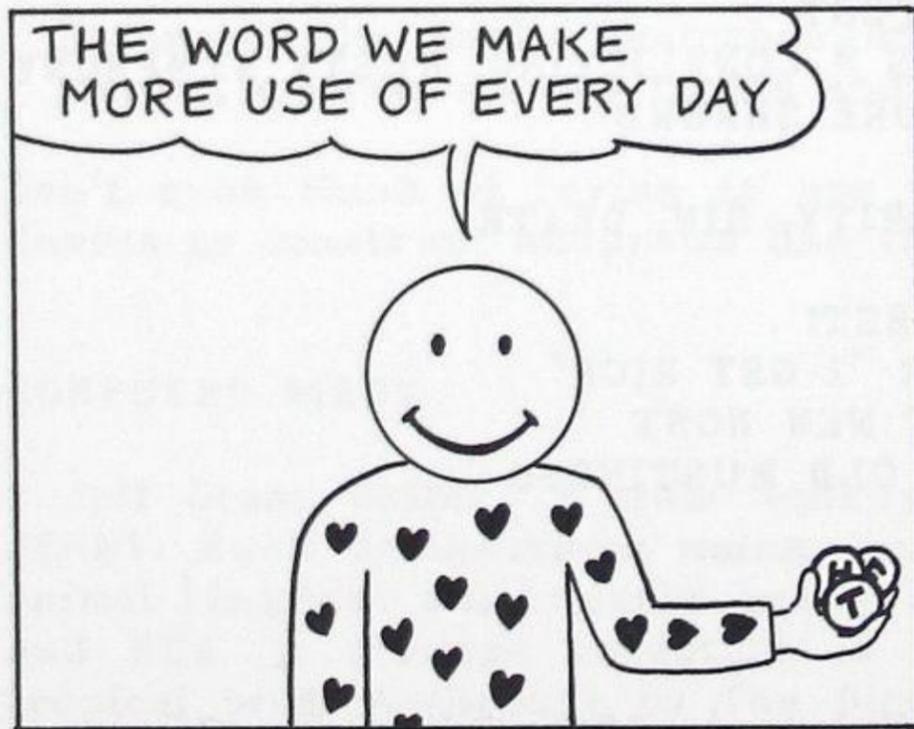
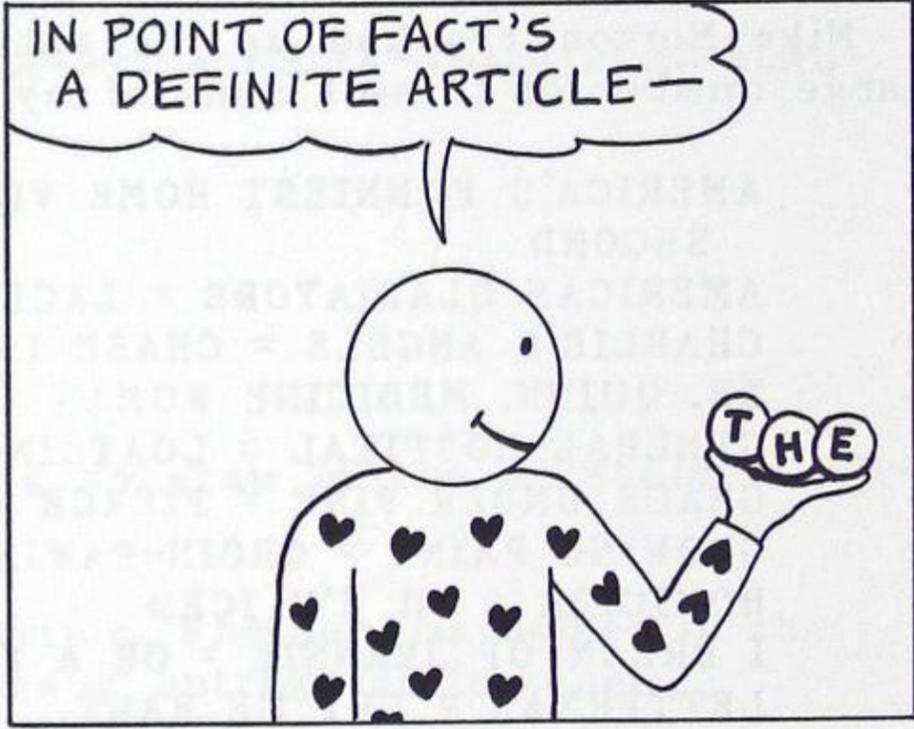
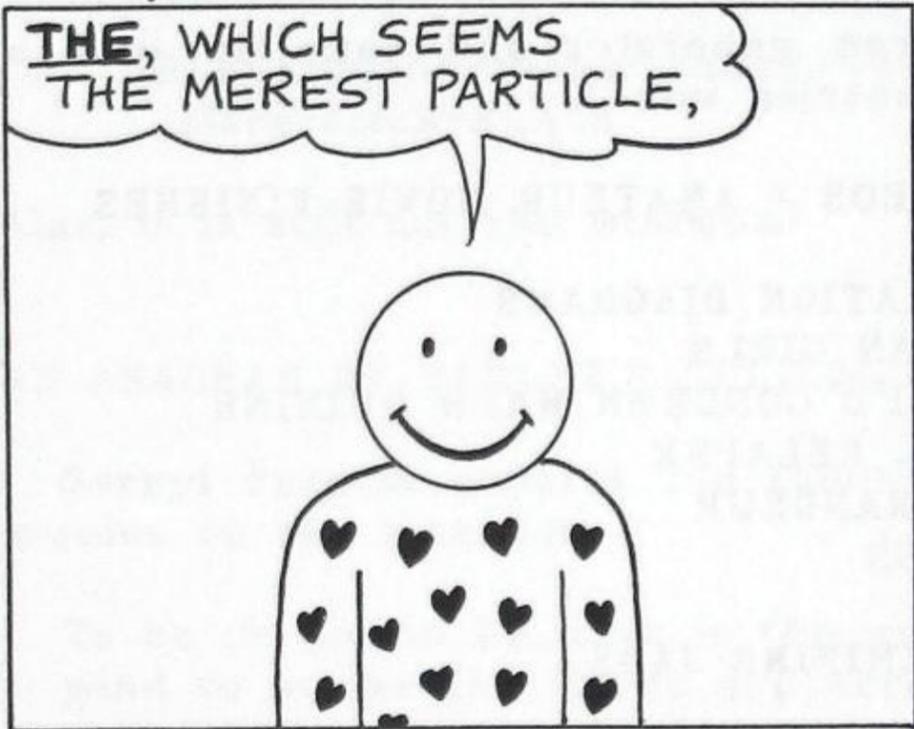
A	EAGER	IDENTICAL	MAGNETOSTATIC
BY	FABLED	JACKBOOTED	NASOPHARYNGEAL
CIS	GAINFUL	KINDHEARTED	OMNIDIRECTIONAL
DAFT	HABITUAL	LABYRINTHIAN	PHENOMENOLOGICAL

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



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

