

# KICKSHAWS

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Readers are encouraged to send their favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws Editor (e-mail address David-Morice@uiowa.edu). The November Kickshaws will be edited by guest editor Richard Lederer.

## MAGIC WORDPLAY

In response to John Mayer's list of rhyming names in the February Kickshaws, Max Maven sent a list starring the names of people in the field of magic. With a "hocus pocus!" here they are:

AL SAAL was a sleight-of hand performer from Ohio  
FRANK SHANK is an amateur card magician from the Chicago area  
ABA-DABA is the stage name of a magician from Mexico  
JOHN GAUGHAN ["gone"] builds large-scale props for magicians  
TRICKY RICKY (now Ricky Jay) is a card magician whose critically-acclaimed theater show was recently featured as an HBO special

Pulling straight repetitions out of the hat, Max notes that the conjuring profession has a fair number of examples, including these:

ALAN-ALAN is an escape artist from England  
GALI-GALI, a classic "gather 'round" cry used by Egyptian street performers, was used as a stage name by an Egyptian performer in the 1930s-1960s, and now by his nephew based in Paris  
J.B. BOBO of Texas wrote a classic text on coin magic (originally Beaux-beaux, the spelling was changed when his great-grandfather emigrated from France)

## RHYMING TIME FROM THE JAPANESE

Max points out that the Japanese language is filled with rhyming terms. He sent the following, adding that "there are hundreds more". His list is followed by my attempt at incorporating these delightful words into a story in English.

IRA IRA upset, angry	WAKUWAKU excitedly anticipating
TOKIDOKI sometimes	OROGORO a music box
DOKIDOKI heart-pounding	SOROSORO slowly approaching
GOCHA GOCHA jumbled	WAN WAN bow-wow

Ira was ira ira, wakuwaku his walk home at night. Tokidoki a sorosoro pit bull barked a loud wan wan and jumped out of the darkness. With a dokidoki rush of adrenalin, Ira pulled out his orogoro and played it. "Gotcha!" he shouted at the pit bull, for the high pitch of the orogoro made the dog's ears feel gocha gocha. The ravening beast raced away. Ira said to himself, "My orogoro makes a dokidoki gocha gocha wan wan tokidoki when I'm wakuwaku the sorosoro ira ira pit bull."

#### A MEETS B

Max tells this tale that leads into a monosyllabic dialog. "Two friends run into each other. A greets B, but his manner makes B suggest that A may be under the influence of drugs. He asks if this is so. A replies affirmatively, and--underscoring his condition--does so in Japanese. In response, B demands that A quickly go away. A, by now delirious, enthusiastically shouts out encouragement." The dialog goes like this:

A: Hi.  
 B: High?  
 A: Hai.  
 B: Hie!  
 A: Heigh!

#### LOVING YOU DROVE ME MAD: THE OXYMORON SONG

Ove Michaelsen writes songs and wordplay. The lyrics below feature oxymora--words or phrases that combine opposites, like JUMBO SHRIMP or MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. Can you find the ten that are present?

I lost my mind to win your heart,  
 Knowing well we were off to a finishing start.  
 I can't get into getting out  
 'Cause I'm too certain of my doubt.  
 I'm happy feeling sad--  
 Loving you drove me mad.

I turned you on, then you turned on me.  
 When it came my turn, you turned away.  
 I never got used to getting used  
 To do the things that you refused  
 To. It's the blues, if I keep or lose you--  
 Loving you drove me mad.

It takes a lot of the little I've got,  
 I'm more confused the more I give it thought.  
 I lost it all on one "sure bet",  
 Now I can't remember what I ought to forget.  
 Let's just forget, we've never met--  
 Loving you drove me mad.

Now down is up and cold is hot,  
 It's a contradiction, then again it's not.  
 I've give up all o' my sanity  
 In search of some sweet memory,  
 But nostalgia ain't what it used to be--  
 Loving you drove me mad.

You're the best I've never had--  
 Loving you drove me mad.

C 1979,1991 Ove Michaelsen

#### NEW TUMS WORDPLAY COMMERCIAL

Tums has taken a cautious step into the wordplay arena with a new TV commercial. In it, Tums is compared to two other well-advertised ant-acids. Both have chemicals with long names that are spelled out on the screen. Tums has good old CALCIUM, which everyone's heard of and knows how to spell. (Makes sense, doesn't it--if you can't spell the name of a medicine, don't take it.) The commercial ends with a roll of Tums torn open so that only the UMS is visible, and then the letters CALCI appear in front of the torn end to spell CALCIUMS. This commercial gets two yawns up.

Once again, TUMS has ignored its logological birthright--that it spells SMUT backwards. The company could do a 1990s version of the vintage 1950s SERUTAN commercial. Here's a scenario that would probably make even the couchiest potato sit upright and grow eyes. Larry Flynt is facing a deadline in getting Hustler magazine out, and he looks frazzled. He calls his scantily-clad secretary into his office and says "I need it now, baby!" She hands him a roll of Tums. He breaks open the roll and pops a couple into his mouth. His secretary smiles and holds up the newly-assembled issue of Hustler, winks, and says "Remember--TUMS spelled backwards is SMUT."

#### THE CHALLENGE OF THE ALPHADROME

In the last Kickshaws I asked readers to come up with palindromes having the word ALPHABET in it. Three responded with their own entries into the Alphadrome. Jim Puder sent the first three:

"DID ENID ANNOY 'ALPHABET ANDREWS'? NAY!" ANSWER'D NATE. "BAH! PLAY ON!" NADINE DID.

A dissolute lecherous student in Jordan responds disrespectfully to a teacher's request that he prepare a speech to the class on a subject that interests him: "GOD DAMN! AM, MANIAC, I TO RECITE? BAH! PLAN ON ALPHABETIC EROTICA IN AMMAN, MAD DOG!"

A poet friend of Hosni Mubarak complains to the Egyptian president that his efforts to author a palindromic ode have yielded only some very dull, wooden verse: "I'M A DAMN MAD BARD, O HOSNI! TOO LIGNIN IS SOTADIC ALPHABETAGE," I RAVED. "O NUDE, DUN-ODE, VARIEGATE! ... BAH! 'PLACID AT OSSINING, I LOOT IN SOHO'?? DRAB! DAMN MAD AM I" ...

Susan Thorpe sent one:

E.T.A. LEN, ALPHABET AD. 'L' DATE? BAH, PLANE LATE!

This scrap of dialogue is from an old Middle East espionage manuscript of Jan Anderson's and, mirabile dictu, sums up the whole plot:

"YO! GOT Y'ALPHABET, ABBA EBAN? O, TO NAB 'E,' AB ... BAT 'E!' BAH, PLAY TO GOY ..."

"AN ALPHABET? NAW, I LOST IT, SOL. I WANT 'E,' 'B,' 'A,' 'H' -- PLAN A."

"UN Sung SS ATE (BAH!) PLAN I, ABBA, IN ALPHABET: ASS! GNUS, NU?"

"A KATE B., AH, PLAID I.D., 'I: DIDI', DID I.D. 'I: DI' -- 'DI', ALPHABET A.K.A."

"O, NOT ALPHABETIC! DUMB B., MUD! CITE B! AH, PLATO?: NO."

"OK, NOW, RAW ALPHABET, SOL." "HUH? LOST, EB ... AH! ... P.L.A. WAR WON! K.O.!"

## A HEAD O' BEER

Mark Saltveit of the Palindromist Magazine sent this 1860s tavern inscription from Norfolk County, England. See if you can figure out how to read it:

More	beer	score	clerk
For	my	my	his
Do	trust	pay	sent
I	I	must	has
Shall	if	I	brewer
What	and	and	my

## PURITAN PECULIARITIES

The Puritans loved to give their children moralistic names. Mark has provided the following list published in *Gleanings for the Curious from the Harvest Fields of Literature* (1860, 1875, 1890) but not reprinted in *Oddities and Curiosities of Language* (1961). Although the names sound odd, are they really that unusual? Imagine the first name on the list being that of the lead singer of a heavy metal band called "Kill-sin Pimple and the Holy Zits." It would certainly beat "The Sex Pistols,"

"Kiss" or "Marilyn Manson." How would you place the following names in a modern context?

Kill-Sin Pimple	The-Gift-of-God Stringer
Zealous King	Live-in-Peace Hillary
God-Reward Smart	More-Fruit Flower
Thunder Goldsmith	Called Lower
Fly-Debate Roberts	Accepted Trevor
Fight-the-Good-Fight-of-Faith White	

Referring to the 1875 edition, Mark found this intriguing little note: "A Puritan maiden ... asked for her baptismal name, replied 'Through-much-tribulation-we-enter-the-kingdom-of-Heaven, but for short they call me Tribby.'"

#### DOROTHY'S TRAVEL PLANS

The editor reveals the plans of Dorothy in this message mailed from the Emerald City: "Let's travel from Toronto, Toto, to Totowa, New Jersey--and when we tire of the state, we can, from Towaco to Waco, tow a collie along with you!"

#### COUNTRY LINES

Jim Denigan collects country slang from many sources, both oral and written, and he's got a passel of 'em. Here are twenty to get your feet wet, but remember: You don't go barefoot to a snake stompin'.

He's a god-damned patent-leather wonder  
 This'll knock your hat in a creek [excite you]  
 He's hornier than a three-balled tomcat  
 She's crazier than a long-tailed mountain lion in a room full of  
     rocking chairs  
 He's as dumb as a box of rocks  
 Let's scoot a boot [dance]  
 Hanging around with them is like living in a ditch with a herd of  
     goats  
 She's one swell order of pork chops  
 He slept like fish bones at the bottom of a mud pond  
 The arrogance was draining from her face like a poached egg with a  
     slow leak  
 He was knee-walking drunk  
 He's lower than a snake's belly in a wagon rut  
 She's as nervous as a virgin at a prison rodeo  
 He's tighter than a bull's ass in fly season  
 He takes half as many showers as a hyena pack  
 Her breath's so bad it would start a windmill on an old Dutch  
     painting  
 He was so persuasive he could talk a cat out of a dairy

He was sweating like a mandolin player on Judgment Day  
 She's so mad she's steamin' like a cow pie in a snow bank  
 He drank so much he drowned his false teeth

#### LITTLE MISS MUFFIN

This poem was written at leisure (that is, without haste) by Stanley Applebaum, editor at Dover Publications in 1977. Can you explain its special quality?

Puny girl Muffin  
 Did loll on puffin,  
 Nipping on milk in bowl.  
 Woolly worm did  
 Coil up on kid,  
 Quickly did Muffin roll!

#### ODD AND EVEN DIALOGUE

Craig Kasper constructed the following lipogrammatic dialogue in which one person uses only even-numbered letters and the other, odd-numbered ones (no vowels). It originally appeared in the June 1996 issue of Graffiti on the Sphinx, a magazine of National Puzzlers' League commentary published monthly by Philip Cohen.

MA: [kiss] Wake! I make you eggs.  
 JR: zzzzzz...  
 MA: Wake, you wise guy! You sick?  
 JR: zzzzzz...  
 MA: Wake quick, you saucy scum!  
 JR: zzzzzz...  
 MA: So, you make me smack you?  
 JR:  
 MA: Say, you OK?  
 JR:  
 MA: ...911?

#### ALPHABETICALLY INCLINED

Jay Ames has compiled a list of alphabetonyms from the phonebook. As he explains it, "Unlike Toronto, Ottawa does not have 'both oars in the water' insofar as alphabetonyms go. Only the following: AYE, BEE, SEE, DEE, GEE, AITCHISON (and why not, with no AITCH), EICH/EID/EIF (lacking an EI, open or shut), JAY/JAYE, KAY/KAYE, ELL, EMMETT, ENN, OH, PEA(BODY), KEW/KIU/KYU, ARR, ESSE, no TEA/TEE (but lotsa COFFEY, COKE, COLA, BEER and WATER), YEW/YIU/YOO/YU, ZED (and ZEEMAN).

## MULTI-GRAMMONYMS

Jay's research of the phonebook has led him to some unusual corners of onomastics. He writes, "AN, AO, AU, AV, AW and AY are the only two-letter A-surnames listed in Ma Bell's Bible for the area. There are 35 separate three-letter ones from AAR to AYE ... and also under the A, AACH to AZZI. [Among the many eye-catchers are] 'Charlie' 'Chuck' ACE, ABEL, and ABLE--to put alongside five WILLINGs. ADAD who is neither AMAM nor AMOM and might not even be a father yet. Donna AMAN is as much a female as Kittie or Sucha MANN. Ali BABA has no caveful of treasure and may not know the magic word, which, as a boy, I heard as 'open says me.'"

## TOISE VOISE ER WOISE

Using a few words from Susan Sperling's *Poplollies and Bellibones*, Jay has composed this poem as a treat for your logological taste buds:

Helminthic  
are my peas, my kale,  
and wormier my spuds.  
Could be, I'd best  
move back to town,  
to cheaper grubs an' duds.

Holothurians  
(so I'm told)  
are dainty, tasty treats.  
I think I'll stick  
to tripe and such,  
escargot an' pig feets.

## FAIRFIELD PHONE PEOPLE

Fred Crane sent two names from the 1994-5 Fairfield Iowa phonebook that boggle the imagination: MOTHER Nature J; JABLOWMI Haywood.

## STOCK TIPS FOR THE WORDPLAY INVESTOR

While writing the Wall Street Logo section of May's Fledge Ledge Edge, Jan Anderson picked up some hot stock tips to share with us. She says "I heard on the Street an exchange among five top financial analysts. They were discussing the best market buys for the so-called Goldilocks economy (not too hot, not too cold, but the bears are on their way). The bull was flying so swiftly I could cover it only marginally, but here are their options, however unwarranted ..."

"I'm pumped up about oil stocks!" Merrill gushed crudely. "Get on the fast food line I'm pushing," Salomon ordered archly. "Dashed automobiles!" Salomon's brother fumed exhaustedly, then shifted engagingly, "they'll pick up." "American-made???" Merrill stalled idly, recalling some problems. "I'm shorting power and light," Donald's son sputtered out darkly. "But Coca-Cola's surging!" Donald bubbled refreshingly. "Health issues will recover too!" Salomon's brother injected feverishly. "The sector looks rosy for a breakout!" Merrill erupted rashly. "Food

stocks' the safe way," Salomon mouthed stuffily--"especially Hershey," he expanded heavily. "Aren't you the idiot who cut your position on Gillette?" Donald's son brushed him off cheekily. "That's a barbarous bald-faced lie!" Salomon bristled, foaming heatedly. "Goodyear's tired," Donald's son ran on flatly. "Inflated," Merrill added airily, checking the P/E, "and under pressure." "Cyclicals should divest; that's my spin," offered Salomon publicly. "The future's technology," his brother chipped in, cursorily monitoring the Nasdaq. Donald ducked this, becoming animated: "Disney's an outperformer, and I'm riding it up! ABCing you." Then they all split.

## WESTWARD WHOA!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch all hands are busy whipping up more Frosting for the four-tiered Wooding cake. Did I say four? From the same wild and woolly west side of Manhattan where Jan lives, Jonas Rednan sends along the fifth, this one by stagecoach.

### Stopped By Whoops? No, We're Leaving

Whose whoops these are I ought to know.  
His scouts are in the gulch below.  
I think I'd better watch my rear;  
Got eyes like hawks, those Navajo.

No spittle, hoarse, I drink some beer.  
No stopping us--we pioneer!  
Between the mountains and Salt Lake,  
It's stark and vast and dry frontier.

The cliffs look harmless; Belle's "Gosh' sake!"  
Is pesky--not a dame you'd make.  
The other sound's the banking Veep--  
He's passing wind, the townie snake!

These whoops are loud, the gulch is deep,  
And though the promontory's steep,  
This mail's to go to Four-Eyes Leap;  
This mail's to go to Four-Eyes Leap.

## PALINDROMIC MATH

Jeff Grant sends along the following palindrome which is also a true mathematical sum if one sets A=1, B=2, etc. A tour de force!

SUM: GYRO+BROBDINGNAG+EVIL-ALIVE-GANG+NID = BORBORYGMUS  
65            93            48    49            29    27            155



## AND DNA

Peter Newby tells an intriguing and true wordplay mystery: "One British criminal, allegedly the convicted murderer Michael Sams, made an ingenious attempt to avoid genetic fingerprinting with one of his assaults upon women. This was the case of the abduction of the London estate agent, Suzy Lamplugh. Her office diary for Monday, July 28 1986 records an appointment to meet a 'Mr Kipper' and she was never seen alive again. If you insert DNA in KIPPER you get KIDNAPPER!"

## THE ROMANCE OF WAR

Truth is stranger than logology, and Peter has another strange-but-true tale: "Among the first Italians to be taken prisoner by the British in North Africa was General Lastucci together with a major and the major's pregnant wife. Circumstances had the major detached from the group and the BBC, wishing to praise the chivalry of the Desert Rats, broadcast the courteous reception accorded the 'general and his pregnant wife'. Unfortunately, Signora Lastucci heard the news and protested through the Swiss Red Cross. The BBC then uttered the correction that 'the pregnant lady was not the general's wife.'"

## DONUT STANDARDS

Peter writes this tale, and you can decide whether it's true or not: "Mad Eric Ovid was in Donutland chasing those confections which did not conform to the standards set by the management. As soon as he espied an oddity, he thumped it with a baseball bat, usually rendering the sweetmeat unconscious. New Bybwen's Margo Bits, on holiday in Iowa, wondered why Mr Ovid should STUN ODD DONUTS."

## AFFFECTION

"Telephone directologists," Peter writes, "may care to research a potentially-remarkable man, Jeff ffoulkes, whose name has a continuous string of lower-case letters (as opposed to such trivial examples as Jill L. Lewis) which may make him a unique character in onomastics. Does he exist? What other (real) examples exist?"

## CLIODNA RIDES AGAIN

Peter relates another tale of New Bybwen's star from the center ring: "Clidna, the daredevil trapezeatrix, and some of her chums felt tired. Palindromically speaking, DON, BOB, ANNA, CLIODNA AND OILCAN NABOB NOD."

## BIGRAM- AND TRIGRAM-UNIT PALINDROMES AND ANAGRAMS

Normally, palindromes and anagrams involve manipulating single letters. Those below, however, use two- and three-letter units (bigrams and trigrams). The individual units stay the same, but they work like their single-letter counterparts. For example, the palindrome GOOD! O, GOD GO! separates into the bigrams GO OD OG OD GO. The bigrams on opposite sides of the center are the same. In this case, the central bigram, OG, doesn't require a matching bigram to make the line a palindrome. Writing such lines requires a different way of thinking.

## Bigram-Unit Palindromes

DID I LEAP A MAPLE, DIDI?  
 PANAMA IS MANA, PA!  
 TEN? O, PAPERS TO AL. READ REALTOR'S PEP! A NOTE  
 ANY MORE, TORY MAN?

## Trigram-Unit Palindrome

ONE BED MAY BE DONE

## Bigram-Unit Anagrams

WATERLOO RAID = WAR LOOTER AID  
 MOST LAMENT = LAST MOMENT  
 RAIN DISASTER = SAD IS TERRAIN  
 TO PANAMA = MA, PA, NATO  
 NO DIALOG = "O, GAL!" NOD I

## Trigram-Unit Anagram

HE'D ONE MISERABLE BED = BE DONE, BLEMISHED ERA

## ESTATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Faith Eckler sent an ad for The Corcoran Group selling luxury townhouses and other "magnificent sun-drenched penthouses" in which you can "dream under the stars". However, you have to interpret the abbreviations that crawl through the text like termites. One line announces a "Lrg and light apt in DM/concierge bldg". Although I am a DM, I don't recall being a concierge for a lrg and light apt--and if it's lrg, can it also be light? Faith selected several abbrvs and interpreted them in her own way:

Have you ever dreamed of living in a luxury apartment on Central Park West (CPW)? Well, let's look at the NY Times and see what's available. First, we can rule out those we'd have to share with a deceased former president (FDR), although an overweight political appointee (lg DA) might come in handy. And certainly we might want to have our own

personal physician living under our roof (md's room). Some of the apartments appear to be very large--big enough for several trade shows (3 expos). These events are regularly televised (WBFP--is that Channel 1?). Goddamn storage space (gd clsts)--does that mean they're too big or too small? Wildlife seems to abound in luxury apartments: fish (fin P), baby or well-fed felines (new kit, ful kit), and mice (EIK). All of the apartments, however, have a major drawback; apparently you have to share them with 1-4 monks (BRs). Just so you don't misunderstand, some ads emphasize that these monks are men (MBR). What nerve (gall)! Maybe I'll just stay where I am.

## CAPITAL IDEAS

Susan Thorpe sent a set of sayings that have something extra splicing the words. It's a capital approach to subliminal wordplay:

MANners maketh man	he laughs best wHo lAUGHs lAst
ManneRs maketh man	a bad penny always turns uP
the body in the LibrArY	faint HEaRt ne'er won fair lady
evening PriMrose	GEntiLiTy is but ancient riches
good morning AMerica	getting blood out of A stOne
All MEN must die	absence makes the heart Grow fONdEr

## -IST LIST

Charles Linett has invented the -ist game. As he explains it, "This game is based on the penchant of some people in otherwise mundane occupations to attempt to enhance the sound of what they do by appending IST to their description. Thus, you can see someone who sells herbs call themselves a herbalist. A palm reader is sometimes called a palmist. It makes you wonder whether someone all of whose friends are named Arthur would start referring to himself as an artist. Anyway, here are some peculiar interpretations for standard old words."

CAPITALIST one whose typewriter's shift-lock key is stuck  
 MOIST the opposite of those who are fond of doing with less  
 ASSIST a fan of the callipygian  
 ORGANIST female counterpart to "assist"  
 SUBSIST one fond of underwater vehicles (or big sandwiches)  
 COLONIST one with an affinity toward the proctological  
 CELLIST a specialized field of biology  
 CONSIST one fond of ex-prisoners  
 DENTIST one who works in an auto body shop  
 CUBIST one who likes baby bears  
 FLORIST a carpet installer  
 FOIST one who believes the maxim "know thy enemy"  
 HEIST one who likes males  
 RIGORIST a mortician  
 TUBIST one who eschews showers

COLUMNIST an admirer of the Parthenon

EXIST one fond of former spouses

Perhaps a lumberjack should be called a logologist!

### EXRAY VISION

Can you add a letter to the beginning and ending and a space within each of these words to make sentences?

EXACT

EXANIMATE

EXCHANGE

EXCLAIM

EXFOLIATE

EXPANDER

EXPATRIATE

EXCOMMUNICATE

EXPOSE

EXPOUND

EXPRESS

EXPULSE

### OOPS, GOTTA RUN!

Reebok made one of the biggest gaffes in shoe history last year. According to CNN, the company put out a running shoe for women called Incubus. When someone pointed out that an incubus was a mythical monster that raped women in their sleep, Reebok fell over their feet in apology.

### FRAME WORDS

Notice the letters in the term FRAME WORDS. If FRAME is printed above WORDS, the letters in each column alternate their alphabetic directions, which, of course, frame the words. F comes before W, R comes after O, A comes before R, and so on. Frame word ladders work the same way. Notice in the AWAY-RATE ladder, all the letters in each column go forward or backward along the alphabet. Can you come up with longer frame words than FRAME WORDS? Or a longer (or wider) ladder than AWAY-RATE?

F R A M E  
W O R D S

A W A Y  
G R E W  
J O L T  
L I O N  
M E S H  
R A T E

### ANAGRAM PLAGIARISM ON TV

The NY Times has had a couple of commercials running recently in which a word appears, scrambles, and becomes another word or phrase. While most of them are word-to-word anagrams, at least two of them are classics appearing in the New Anagrammasia. Here's a list of Timely Anagrams:

SCARED = SACRED  
 CURSE = CURES  
 WAR = RAW  
 SILENT = LISTEN

CHEAT = TEACH  
 FATE = FEAT  
 DIPLOMACY = MAD POLICY  
 DORMITORY = DIRTY ROOM

## THE SILLY R'S

Mahoun ar Rowsky has sent a take-off on the Peter Piper tongue-twister. His features twisting the tongue of the Great Communicator. Now if only he could come up with a Nixon twister to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Watergate. Is it coincidence that M(ahoun) ar Rowsky's name contains Marrowsky, a synonym for a spoonerism?

If Ronald Reagan recked no rede,  
 Rowing on Russia's raging rivers,  
 How many reeds of raging Russian rivers  
 Did Ronald Reagan wreck?

## A NEW LONG DICTIONARY TRANSPOSAL

The longest-known dictionary-sanctioned transposal is the 18-letter NATURAL NECESSITIES = INARTICULATELESSES by Charles Holding; the singular of both expressions is found in the Merriam-Webster Unabridged. Recently the editor passed along an equally-remarkable discovery by Guy Jacobson of Bridgewater, New Jersey: SECONDARY QUALITIES = QUASI-CONSIDERATELY. Both of these can be found in the Random House Unabridged. This originally appeared in the June 1997 issue of The Enigma, the monthly publication of the National Puzzlers' League.

## THE ARTFUL ROGER

Hong Konger Roger Berry sent in the following lighthearted celebration of wordplay. Willard Espy, look to your poetic laurels!

I used to be agnostic  
 Of the meaning of 'acrostic'  
 I thought lipograms were messages one sent by word of mouth  
 The unique univocalic  
 Sounded far too encephalic  
 And a pal-in-drome? It had to be a friend in France's south

But now I'm into wordplay  
 Well aware that it's absurd play  
 But the doctor says there's just no way of curing this addiction  
 You may think there's nothing sillier  
 Than a life of logophilia  
 But the fact you're reading this suggests you've got the same affliction

So welcome to the word fair  
 Try a rebus or a word square  
 At the next stall you'll find anagrams to please and tease your mind  
 Relax your inhibitions  
 Over pangrams, transpositions  
 For the only cross words you'll meet here will be the puzzle kind

c Roger Berry 1997

### THE THIRD (DE)-GRY

Charles Wiedemann of Hackettstown NJ wrote to Marilyn Vos Savant with his solution to the famous -GRY problem. He claims that the riddle in its correct form must be spoken and heard; it does not work when it is written down:

There are at least three words in the English language that end in g or y. One of them is hungry, and another one is angry. There is a third word, a short one, which you probably say every day. If you are listening carefully to everything I say, you just heard me say it three times. What is it?

When the listener gives up, Wiedemann explains, "You assumed that I said 'g-r-y' but in fact I said 'g or y'. The word is 'say'!"

### WORDPLAY DICTIONARY

I am currently compiling a Wordplay Dictionary. If you've come up with any new wordplay forms (hybrids, variants, special cases, etc.) or concepts that you'd like to have considered for inclusion, please mail or e-mail them to me at the addresses listed on the inside cover of Word Ways and the beginning of Kickshaws. Most entries for wordplay forms will include (1) the name of the form, (2) the definition, and (3) one or more examples. All works will be credited to their authors, if known. I estimate that the dictionary will include a thousand or more entries.