

KICKSHAWS

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Readers are encouraged to send their favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws Editor (e-mail David-Morice@uiowa.edu).

YEAR OF THE BEAST

Monte Zerger discovered an amazing relationship involving letters, numbers (especially 666, the Number of the Beast), and the year 1998. He describes it this way: "1998=666+666+666. Since 1998 can be represented using three 666s, assign successive multiples of 3 to the successive letters of the alphabet: A=3, B=6, C=9,... Z=78. Add the values of the letters in NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT and you will obtain exactly 666."

GRADE SCHOOL ANAGRAMS

Recently I gave the kids in my son's third and fourth grade class a brief introduction to anagrams. I began by writing OCEAN and CANOE on the blackboard and then drawing lines from the letters in one to the same letters in the other. After giving a few more examples, I asked if they'd like to make anagrams of their names. They were totally enthusiastic about it. We progressed one student at a time through the entire class. I wrote each name on the board and we all tried making anagrams of it. After each anagram was completed, I made a comment relating it to the student. For instance, when MARK T anagrammed to K-MART, I said, "Aha! That must be where you like to shop!" A few more examples:

MAXIM I'm Max
DANIEL nailed
CAITLIN 'til I can
SEAN sane

THOMAS hot, Sam! (ah, most!)
AMELIA am a lie (I, a male)
JAMES STONE same jet, son
ZACHARY ah, crazy!

SHOPPING FOR SNOODS ON A SHOWERY EVENING

Adrienne Sno has joined the controversy over the Frost poem. She writes, "Dave--you, Jan Anderson, Jason Drenan and Jonas Rednan have no interpretative ability. That poem is of more universal interest than you've understood, as it goes to the difficulties of modern life in a competitive, capitalistic and--yes--patriarchal society (even at prom time!). I endured it just last week, when "Shopping For Snoods On A Showery Evening."

Whose snoods were those? I hope I know.
 That store's downtown a mile or so.
 Their quilt of sequins spanned my hair;
 Bewitching prom snoods full of glow.

My formal gown's a little square
 To shop at Best's, but I don't care.
 Between the rain and wind, it makes
 My parka useless; people stare.

I give my prom dress several shakes.
 The parking lot is full of lakes.
 I sound my plea: "Where's snoods?" I cheep.
 "We're out," the cashier says. "Try Blake's."

With snoods I'd look like Meryl Streep,
 But now my prom dress's soaked deep
 And malls to go before I seep.
 And malls to go before I seep.

STOPPING BY NUDES ON A MUSEUM WALL

Inspired by Adrienne's poem, I was PROMpted to include an aesthetically correct version of Frost's masterpiece. Other readers are encouraged to defrost the original!

Whose nudes these are I think I know.
 His loft is in the Village though.
 He will not see me stop to nod
 And gaze at them from head to toe.

The abstract art must think it odd
 To stop at paintings of the bod,
 Far from Pollock and Franz Klein
 Where Art News critics praise art's god.

The critics sniff and say it's fine,
 For artists have to drink and dine.
 The only other sound's the call
 Of guards beside the "Don't Touch" sign.

The nudes are life-size on the wall
 But look like they're about to fall,
 And I will wait to catch them all,
 And I will wait to catch them all.

THE WINDWHAT

Jan Anderson went to Gerard Manley Hopkins for further inspiration. She says, "If Hopkins had been a housewife, what could we have ex-

pected instead of 'The Windhover'?" Her answer is "The Windwhat," with Hopkins' words in uppercase:

I CAUGHT THIS MORNING MORNING'S--what?

It's in the cupboard, top shelf, but
You'll have to wash it--KINGDOM OF
DAYLIGHT'S--not that shelf, above!--

DAPPLE-DAWN-DRAWN--the plates are there,
just look--HIGH THERE, HOW--I swear,
you can find one thing yourself--
ECSTASY! THEN OFF--the shelf!--

AS A SKATE'S HEEL SWEEPS--what broke?
MY HEART IN HIDING STIRRED--a Coke?--
BRUTE--what?--PLOD MAKES--lunch? Now?!!...sure.
(No wonder what I write's obscure.)

THE SEVEN SEAS

Howard Bergerson provides an intriguing example of logological geography. He discovered that the seven seas appear in the five oceans. How? Count the Cs: arCtiC, antarCtiC, atlantiC, paCifiC, indian.

COMPLEMENTARY TRANSPOSAL

On rare occasions, Howard notes, two words related in meaning can be formed by rearranging the letters in another word. Two remarkable examples result in pairs of animals. The first is by Howard, the second by Dmitri Borgmann: LOITERING lion tiger, MATRICES rats mice.

BIGRAM BEHEADMENT

Rich Lederer has come up with an excellent two-letters-at-a-time beheadment: DELIBERATING, LIBERATING, BERATING, RATING, TING, NG. (Ng is a common Asian surname.) Is this the longest one possible?

IS HELL EXOTHERMIC OR ENDOTHERMIC?

At the University of Oklahoma School of Chemical Engineering, Dr. Schlambaugh asked the following question on his final exam of 1997: "Is hell exothermic or endothermic? Support your answer with proof." Most of the students based their answers on Boyle's Law or a variant. One student responded with this remarkable essay:

First, we postulate that if souls exist, they must have some mass. If they do, then a mole of souls must have a mass. So at what rate are souls moving into hell and at what rate are souls leaving? I think we can safely assume that once a soul gets to hell it does not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for souls entering hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today.

Some of the religions state that if you are not a member of that religion, you will go to hell. Since there are more than one of these religions and people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all people and all souls go to hell. With the birth and death rates what they are, we can expect the number of souls in hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of the change in the volume of hell. Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in hell to stay the same, the ratio of the mass of the souls and volume needs to stay constant. (1) If hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter hell, then the temperature and pressure in hell will increase until all hell breaks loose. (2) If hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase in souls in hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until hell freezes over. So which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by Theresa Banyan during Freshman year, that "it will be a cold night in hell before I sleep with you" and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then (2) cannot be true. Thus hell is exothermic.

The student, Tim Graham, got the only A.

ALPHABETICAL -IST

Jay Ames writes, "My hat is off to friend Charles Linett [in the August Kickshaws], whose -ist list sparked the following cluster, one for each letter of the alphabet."

ARTIST one who loves Art or art (or both)
 BAPTIST water baby or maker/vendor of church fonts
 CHEMIST someone who has a fetish for chemises (Scots 'semmett')
 DOGMATIST maker/vendor of doggie mats
 EXTREMIST a real far out guy
 FLORIST lover (or layer) of floors
 GORBACHEVIST Quasimodo admirer (name in Russian means "humpback")
 HEDONIST a real cool cat (never loses his boko,bonce,cocko,gourd,melon)
 IDOLIST fawning butt-kisser
 JOBIST inveterate bitcher
 KARLIST one who prefers Karls to Karlas (or maybe carlists to cars)
 LEFTIST southpaws
 MIGHTIST rightist advocate
 NOVELIST oover of the new, or a romance reader
 ORGANIST you need ask?
 PERSIST thief, specifically a bag snatcher
 QUIETIST noise abater
 RACIST marathoner or long-distance runner
 SOLOIST Lone Ranger, lone wolf
 TELEPHONIST obscene phone caller or motor-mouth
 UNIONIST Northerner
 VARGIST pin-up calendar freak
 WAGGIST a joker's joker
 X-IST illiterate (cannot sign his name)

YARDIST an incurable yardbird
 ZEDIST British lover of the letter Z

LOGOLOGIST

Dan Tilque asks, "Shouldn't LOGOLOGIST be defined as someone who records corporate symbols? That is, a LOGO-LOG-IST." Another possibility: someone who keeps a list of -IST words, as in LOG, O LOG -IST.

NATURE NOTES

Jay Ames wrote the following poem about nature and its unusual rhyme scheme:

Salamanders love the sun
 And bask in hottest places.
 Basilisks can turn to stone
 Man's many-colored faces.
 Efts or newts do well in ponds
 But can survive in bottles.
 I only wish I knew as much
 Concerning axolotls.

OVERLAPPING WORDS AND HIDDEN MIDDLE NAMES

By coincidence, Peter Newby and I have found similar wordplay forms involving letters that overlap between first and last names. For example, he notes that peTER Newby suggests that he's a sea fowl. Some famous people and their overlapping words: michaEL Foale (Mir astronaut), ezRA Pound (poet turned rap artist), naoMI CAMPbell (supermodel with the quality of isinglass), aloiS HITler (father of Adolph), hORATIO Nelson (who liked to hear himself talk).

Hidden middle names are names that overlap in the same way. I realized one evening that my son has a hidden middle name--daniEL MOrice. I then noticed that my name, as davE Morice, has my grandmother's nickname in it. I looked for hidden middle names of well-known people but they're few and far between: abraham LINcoln, ida Lupino, etHAN Allen, joE Dimaggio, beniTO Mussolini, richard AVEdon, martin GARDner, hamLIN GARland, monA LIsa, moniCA Lewinsky, aristotLE ONassis. Note that he also has LEON and LEO!

THE MILE OF ANNE

In the Irish Sea, according to Peter Newby, the Mile of Anne is a British offshore tax haven that boasts many a unique species of beast. One such is the legendary frunch, said to graze in meadows but yet to be recognized by science. The renowned sceptic Maeve Doris concluded that "There is no such thing as a lea frunch". A marine biologist, Professor Doris, did, however, observe the annual mating ritual of the Worm Spale, the male of which is known to the islanders as Doby Mick. On a

visit to Iowa Nita Pewby, world traveler, was taken to a toast gown to admire the dramatic Key Pox which flaunt their magnificent fail tethers in a dating misplay.

THE GIFT OF GHAB

Peter writes, "Though Shaw's GHOTI and its various Kickshavian siblings are entertaining examples of wordsmithery, none has a practical application. Now, a phonetic word which meets a specific need--the expression of silence. G as in GNOME, H as in GHOST, A as in HAEMORRHOIDS, and B as in LAMB gives us GHAB. Unpronounced, GHAB is intended to be a purely literary device to convey speechlessness. Below, it features in a snatch of dialogue."

WIFE Natter, natter, natter...
 HUSBAND Ghab.
 WIFE ...natter, natter, natter...
 HUSBAND Ghab.
 WIFE ...natter, natter, natter...
 HUSBAND Bollocks!
 WIFE Ghab!!

A SQUARE DEAL

D E What could be more perfect (as in "a more perfect union") than
 A L this two-square provided by Peter? (All words are defined in
 Pears Advanced Word Puzzler's Dictionary.)

MORE-THAN-FOUR-WORD STREET- AND AVENUMENCLATURE

The August 1 1997 Daily Mail provided answers to the question "Does any street in the United Kingdom have more than four words in its name?" One reader replied that a road in Jersey is named LA RUE DE LA VAL DE LA MARE. Another said that York has WHIP-MA-WHOP-MAGATE where, according to tradition, medieval beggars were given such a treatment. Owie! Are there many streets anywhere else in the world that have five or more words? Does any language and/or country favor long street naming? Peter cites other street names of interest: Leicester has EVERY STREET; Chesterfield has the dually-named GIPSY/GYPSY LANE, as well as HIPPER STREET which spoonerizes to STRIPPER HEAT. Owie!

PARASYMPATHOMIMETIC

This nineteen-letter giant from Webster's 10th Collegiate can be fit into a palindrome using fairly common words and names. With reasonable prefixes and suffixes added, it can be increased to words of 21, 23, 25 and 27 letters that also fit into palindromes:

Rise, parasymphomimetic item! I'm--oh, tap my sarape, Sir
 Rise parasymphomimetical! La, cite Mim. Oh, tap my sarape, Sir
 Rise, parasymphomimetically dim idyll! A cit, Em. I'm--oh, tap my

sarape, Sir

Em, antiparasymphomimetical? O, Lola, cite Mim. Oh, tap my Sara
(pit name)!

Em, antiparasymphomimetically dim idyll! A cit, Em. I'm--oh, tap my
Sara (pit name)!

ALPHADROMES

In response to the Alphadrome Challenge (to use the word ALPHABET in a palindrome), Jim Puder sent the following, including two with suffixes added to the word:

"Did Enid annoy 'Alphabet Andrews'? Nay!" answer'd Nate. "Bah! Play on!" Nadine did.

"God damn! Am maniac, I to recite? Bah! Plan on alphabetic erotica in Amman, mad dog!"

(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)

"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!..."

(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)

ETERNALLY PITHY

Fred Crane writes, "One of my avocations is trying to put eternal truths into the form of pithy statements. I've put a lot of time into this, but the family and close friends that I have shown the results to all say that they need more work. What do you think?"

- A bird that goes out looking for worms will be more likely to find them if it starts out early in the day
- Fools are in a hurry to get to places that smart people stay away from
- Paintings and things like that last a long time, but people don't
- The cup often spills before you get it to your mouth
- Don't put all your mushrooms into the same box
- If you have any jewels, don't throw them into the pigpen
- You can't make a silk purse unless you have some silk
- It's a good thing to express yourself without too many words, because the effect is actually cleverer, or it can be, according to some people--sometimes, anyway

NUMERICAL KANGAROOS

Many words have letters appearing in order that spell number names, such as bONE and TrENd. The second example is a kangaroo word--that is, the number name is broken apart. A numerical kangaroo can contain more than one number, but at least one should be broken apart. SUPER-GOVERNMENT has ONE and SEVEN, formed respectively in five and three ways. Two words stand out above all others. THREONINE contains the four numbers ONE, THREE, NINE and TEN, and it uses all its letters in spelling them. MONOTONOUSNESSES, which has sixteen letters, forms the number ONE in sixteen different ways: mONotonousnEsses, mONotonousnessEs, and so on to monotonOusNessEs.

NUMBER, PLEASE

The telephone dial (or button console) has the letters arranged three per number, beginning with ABC 2 and ending with WXY 9. The letters Q and Z are omitted, and the digits 0 and 1 aren't coded for letters. The telephonic value of a letter is the digit that appears with it. How many number names are spelled with letters whose telephonic values add up to the numbers themselves? The answer is simple: none. However, the alphabet (the letters minus Q and Z) can be rearranged to appear next to the digits 2-9 in order to generate self-referential telephonic number names. For example, SIX is self-referential when ISX is coded to 2. What is the largest number that can be made telephonically self-referential? Which rearrangement generates the most self-referential numbers? To give you something to better, here is the editor's solution to the latter. The code 2-HR, 3-F, 4-G, 5-WE, 7-VXY, 8-ION and 9-ST yields the fifteen possible combinations of ONE, TWO, THREE, EIGHT and NINE and FIFTY, SIXTY and SEVENTY.

SWEET REVERSALS

Two candies currently available at the local supermarket are TIC TAC (a mint) and KIT KAT (a candy bar). Their syllables of one are phonetic reversals of the corresponding syllables of the other.

FEAR OF SEVEN

Diane Debok relates an old (according to her) grade-school riddle: "Why is the number 6 afraid of the number 7?" Because 7 8 9 and 10.

CHESS PIECE WORDS

The letters most often used in English to signify pawns and pieces in chess are KQRBNP. A chess piece word contains two or more chess notation symbols. Which word contains the most chess notation symbols with no other consonants? with other consonants? Can you find a real word (unlike the last example below) that contains all the chess notation symbols?

A soft hush? It tingles slowly,
As of "thus," hitting less lowly

Her equal. It? Year that rusted
Here? Quality earth, a trusted

Lad, yours. Or did passion abet,
Lady, our sordid pass? I, on a bet,

Bedevelled a woman. Is our
Bed evil, Leda? Wo, man, I sour.

Now, I think, I saw or dared one.
No! With ink is a word a redone

Human? O tense ear! O man, tic!
Hum a note 'n' see a romantic.

PRESIDENTIAL ABC'S

Sue Mager of Newton, Massachusetts acrostically comments on the presidential sex scandal: After Bill Clinton dallied, everyone forgave (gently) his infidelity. Jordan knew Lewinsky manufactured nonsense. Our President quickly read statements trashing underhanded vicious wisecracks (eXamine Your Zipper).

VAN GOGH'S RELATIVES

The following family tree was sent by Jeffrey Marsh to Martin Gardner:

U GOGH the grandfather who moved to Yugoslavia
HUGH GOGH the brother who accidently bleached all his clothes white
PLEASE GOGH the real obnoxious brother
STOP N. GOGH the uncle who worked at a convenience store
VERTI GOGH his dizzy aunt
CHICA GOGH the cousin who moved to Illinois
WELLS FAR GOGH the nephew who drove a stagecoach
TAN GOGH the aunt who loved ballroom dancing
E GOGH his nephew, the Freudian psychoanalyst
MANG GOGH his cousin who loved tropical fruits
POE GOGH his bouncy young nephew
GO GOGH his disco-loving sister
INDI GOGH his blue-eyed cousin
WINNIE BAY GOGH his peripatetic niece

ROCK IS DEAD

Long live paper and scissors!