WILL SHORTZ Pleasantville, New York

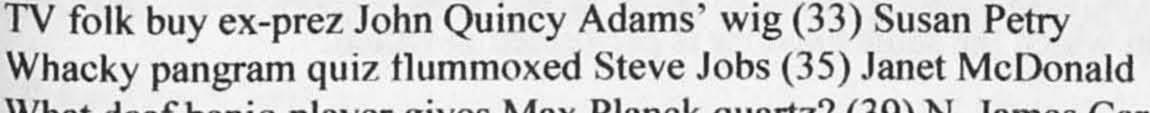
If typists ever want a replacement for the old chestnut "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog", do I have some suggestions! Below are my favorite sentences submitted by National Public Radio "Weekend Edition Sunday" listeners in a creative pangram competition on September 22 and 29, 2002. Each sentence uses all 26 letters of the alphabet at least once (that's a pangram) and contains the name of a famous person (the extra requirement of the contest). Out of thousands of entries, I selected the following on the basis of brevity, meaning, naturalness of syntax , and (sometimes) their ability to make me smile. All the winners use 40 or fewer letters; the grand prizewinner has only 30. A few entries were even shorter, but none read so smoothly.

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G. W. Bush quickly fixed prize jam on TV (30) Gordon Gerwig

Beloved Groucho joked with a mix of zany quips (38) Grant Griffin Foxy Gen. Schwarzkopf jumbled Iraqi TV (32) Daniel A. Martinez Jeb Bush quit work on crazy Florida voting mixup (40) Dot Barr John Quincy Adams grew vexed by talk of puzzles (39) A.J. Demetra My expensive quartz watch once belonged to JFK (39) Barbara Mandel Watch "Jeopardy," Alex Trebek's fun TV quiz game (37) Peter Mowrey

A good, quick jab of a pen may vex Will Shortz (35) Jo LoBiondo Bad Joaquin Phoenix wrecks zingy TV film (34) Mike Weepie Fax back Jim's Gwyneth Paltrow video quiz (34) Ken Neunzig Fixing the razor, J.S. Bach vowed to primp quickly (39) Marcia Marvin Foxy but quick John Leguizamo ponders view (36) Edwin C. Kruse Foxy Tariq Aziz vows to pack enough jade marbles (40) Gerry Cechony Gen. Schwarzkopf's job quietly vexed him (33) Jim Tyrrell Gorbachevv's quixotic plan fazed jumpy hawks (37) Albert Tumpson Jeez, by TV film Schwarzkopf expunged Iraq ((35) C. Vaughn Stetzenmuller Lawbooks forgave John Quincy Adams, sixth prez (39) Alan Inkenbrandt Mozart's jawing quickly vexed a fat bishop (35) Ben Hochman Putin backs away from Iraq zeal; Bush, vexed, jogs (39) Alan Hirshfeld Queen Elizabeth's major picked five sexy wigs (38) Paul Hadavas Queen Elizabeth's proxy waved off Mick Jagger (38) Daniel A. Martinz Quickly Shortz dreams up a few vexing jumbles (38) Gertrude Beal Quincy Jones vowed to fix the bleak jazz program (40) Julie Levin Quip-crazy Gorbachev went and mixed flapjacks (39) Tony White Schwarzkopf vexed Iraq big-time in July (33) William F. Pahle Seiji Ozawa quit, vexing rabid symphonic folk (38) Adam Hirshfeld Sexy diva Jennifer Lopez wasn't baking me quiche (40) Al Gori The big plump jowls of zany Dick Nixon quiver (37) Ruth Bell Then a cop quizzed Mick Jagger's ex-wives briefly (40) Donna de Vries



What deaf banjo player gives Max Planck quartz? (39) N. James Carson