KICKSHAWS

David Morice
Iowa City, Iowa

~ PALINDROME DOCUMENTARY FILM

Mark Saltveit, editor of THE PALINDROMIST journal, and Vince Clemente, a documentary film maker, sent me information about a wonderful new project they are working on, a project that will raise the back-and-forth linguistic magic of palindromes to greater heights than ever. Here are Mark and Vince to tell you more.

"A Man, a Plan, a Palindrome" began as a short documentary profiling 2012 champion Mark Saltveit. When Will Shortz invited us to premiere the film at the 2015 American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, we realized this could be the start of something bigger. The response has been so strong that we've decided to expand the idea into a feature film!

This proposed film will follow the greatest palindromists in the world leading up to the second-ever World Palindrome Championship in early 2017. The film will also delve into the rich history buried beneath this obsession with syntactical symmetry.

Legend says that the first words spoken by a human were a palindrome. Adam introduced himself to Eve saying: "Madam, I'm Adam". Ancient palindromes were the words of Gods and the curses of demons, a vessel for witchcraft and monkish devotion, inscribed on holy baptismal fonts and amulets of malefaction. We even find palindromes beguiling the genius code-breakers of WWII. Our dream is to tell this story by interviewing the experts and imagining these episodes with hand-drawn animation.

This kickstarter will be the first of multiple funding phases to get this film completed. The heart of our shoot is not until early 2017; Will Shortz only holds the Palindrome tournament once every five years. But we are ready to start profiling our top palindromists now, and we need your help. This kickstarter will fund our shoots in 2015 (described in more detail below).

This is your chance to help us out in the filmmaking process. This is a very valuable time, a chance to capture the lives of these geniuses leading up to the championship, a chance to really get to know what makes these wordsmiths tick!
~ MEET THE FILMMAKING TEAM...

Filmmakers Vince Clemente and Adam Cornelius have collaborated previously on a prominent competition documentary, the award-winning Ecstasy of Order: The Tetris Masters. When it comes to capturing world-class brainiacs in the heat of battle, Clemente and Cornelius have the proven experience and know-how to make the story exciting and larger-than-life while still being true to the documentary form.

~ ...AND MEET THE PALINDROMISTS

Mark Saltveit - the current reigning World Palindrome Champion. A true renaissance man, he has held jobs from movie location manager to manual laborer to computer programmer. He founded and ran a computer training company for 9 years, worked as a barista, office temp and professor of English in China, and writes about football and Taoism. Let's also not forget standup comedian, skimboarder, and dad. He is responsible for creating and publishing the Palindromist Magazine and the Skeleton Close website. Sources say he unfortunately helped popularize the term "Whatever" with his essay of that name in "The GenX Reader."

Jon Agee - is the author/illustrator of many popular books for children, including Terrific, Milo's Hat Trick and The Incredible Painting Of Felix Clousseau. In the late 1980's, Agee's fascination with wordplay led to an obsession with palindromes. It was an ideal match, as he was very good at creating these unique backward-forward phrases, as well as absurdly funny cartoons to "explain" them. No surprise, this resulted in several popular books (and a 3rd place medal at the inaugural World Palindrome Championships). The title of Agee's first book was his palindromic magnum opus: "Go Hang a Salami! I'm a Lasagna Hog!" Currently, Agee is at work on a palindromic graphic novel, or as he calls it, a "palindrama," titled "The Wonton Conundrum." The film will follow Jon as he goes through the process of creating this novel, and even incorporate Jon's illustrations into some animations!

Lori Wike - principal bassoonist of the Utah Symphony and a faculty member at the University of Utah and Westminster College. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music and a Master of Arts degree in Comparative Literature from UC-Irvine. She is the proud inventor of a new challenging puzzle game called Crossdromes. The film will feature her music and even visit her at Carnegie Hall when she preforms in April 2016!

Nick Montfort - develops computational art and poetry, often collaboratively. He is a professor at MIT in CMS/Writing and is the principal of the naming firm Nonnym. Montfort wrote the books of poems #! and Riddle & Bind, co-wrote 2002: A Palindrome Story, and developed more than forty digital projects including the collaborations The Deletionist and Sea and Spar Between. The MIT
Press has published four of his collaborative and individual books: The New Media Reader, Twisty Little Passages, Racing the Beam, and 10 PRINT CHRS(205.5+RND(1)); : GOTO 10, with Exploratory Programming for the Arts and Humanities coming soon.

John E. Connett, PhD - is a leading biostatistician at the University of Minnesota, with research interests in clinical trials in pulmonary disease, smoking, ophthalmology, and cardiovascular disease; case-control studies; estimation of odds ratio; random effects models; coefficient-of-variation models for laboratory data; and statistical computing. He also writes the wackiest palindromes of this group, and finished second in the 2012 World Palindrome Championship by only 6 votes of 600.

Martin Clear - is a computer programmer and poet from Sydney, Australia. He also played tight end on a team that won Australia’s American-rules football championship. His palindromes are usually complex, but very grammatically correct. Some say he has the advantage of being able to work in Australian English as opposed to American English, so verb forms that in America add the difficult -ize in Australia add the much more palindromically workable -ise. Lionise, organise etc.

~ NEW! KICKSHAWS GEOGRAPHIC PALINDROME CONTEST

Upon reading about the palindrome documentary, I decided to hold a Geographic Palindrome Contest! right here in Kickshaws.

GEOGRAPHIC PALINDROME CONTEST RULES

1. Each palindrome should have the name of a country, city, mountain, river, desert, or other geographical location—real or fictional—in it.
2. Each should be letter-unit palindrome (such as “Able was I ere I saw Elba”), and not a word-unit palindrome (such as “You can cage a swallow, can’t you, but you can’t swallow a cage, can you?”)
3. Send as many geographic palindromes as you want.
4. Send to Dave Morice by email (drabc1946@gmail.com) or by postal mail (1304 E. Bloomington Street, Iowa City, Iowa, USA).
5. There will be one winner and 5 runners up.
6. Palindromes by Winner and runners up will be published in Word Ways (in Kickshaws). Many of the remaining palindromes will be published, too. All rights revert to the authors.
7. One judge will select the winner and the runners up. The judge’s identity will be revealed in the August 2015 issue.
8. The judge will not know the authorship of the palindromes.
9. PRIZES: First place winner receives 3 books of mine: A Visit from St Alphabet, Poetry City, and A Child’s Garden of Grammar (by Tom Disch
with cartoons by me. *Runners up:* A Visit from St Alphabet. Finally, all 6 people receive an aluminum Dr Alphabet Tokejn. 


*

A Visit from St. Alphabet is an alphabetic parody of A Visit from St. Nicholas. I wrote the woreds and drew the pictures. It was published in a beautiful hard bound edition by the renowned Coffee House in Minneapolis. The parody replaces certain words in the original with letters. For example, the first four lines go like this:

'Twas the night before X When all through the Y
Not a letter was stirring, not even an I.
The S's were hung by the T's with care
In the hopes that St. Alphabet soon would be there.

The book is perfect for a literary Xmas. It is are available at $10 apiece or 3 for $25 (no mailing fee) payable to me by PayPal or by the Post Office.

*

Several years ago, GAMES magazine held a contest titled “Palindromes with Personality.” Readers were invited to submit original palindromes that had a well-known person, real or fictitious, in them. I thought it was a great way to spread the wordrow about palindromes. I submitted 100. The one that follows received an honorable mention:

O, Geronimo, no minor ego!

A few years later, “Weird Al” Yankovic, one of my favorite comedians, came to Iowa City to give a performance at Hancher Auditorium. For part of the event, twenty or so palindromes were projected one by one on a big screen behind Al. At one point, my “Geronimo” appeared up there. What was once an honorably mentioned palindrome had suddenly become a logological star flickering its 15 minutes of flame right up there with “Weird Al.” I wanted to jump up and yell to him, “Hey, ‘Weird Al,’ I wrote that palindrome. Me! ‘Weird Dave.’”

~ A MAN, A PLAN, A CANAL—PANAMA! (TWENTY-SIX PARODIES)

The Panama palindrome above was written by J.A. Lindon. It is one of the most well-known palindromes of all, and it has been parodied numerous times. Lindon’s palindrome is so well structured that it almost becomes a poetic form of its own, like a haiku or a clerihew. Here are some of its rules. (1) It is a univocalic; that is, it uses the same vowel throughout. (2) It is divided into two parts—6 words on the left and 1 word on the right. (3) The first part consists of
article, noun, article, noun, article, noun. (4) The second part is a single end-word spelled with alternating vowels and consonants. (5) The words are grammatically correct, whether they make sense or nonsense. (6) The words appear in a single reputable dictionary.

I decided to see if I could make an alphabet of palindromes in which each end-word begins with a different letter. The end-word is the key to writing a Panamadrome. It forces the choice of vowel that can be used throughout. To begin this puzzling job, I replaced PANAMA with ABACA, reversed it to ACABA, separated it into smaller words A CAB A, added letters to spell words, and completed the first one: A CAB, A TAG, A GAT—ABACA!

Putting these Panamadromes together was quite tricky. Many of the words are uncommon, but they do exist. In fact, all of the words can be found in Webster's Second Unabridged. Some are proper nouns, and three (SAVAN, CASABA, XA) are listed below the line, where the obsolete or questionable words reside. All of the words (except the article “a”) are nouns, and no noun is repeated except XA. For XA, the standard format cannot be employed because there are no Websterian nouns ending in -AXA). Last, but not least, the uncapsilized word “panama,” a type of hat, replaces the capitalized name of the country “Panama” in the original.

A cab, a tag, a gat—abaca!
A tal, a bag, a Maga—balata!
A lab, a crab, a bar—cabala!
A ramada, a map, a maa—Damara!
A hake, a nab, a cabana—ekaha!
A fan, a tan, a tana—fa!
A lag, a lagan, a kana—galagala!
A bahar, a tab, a batara—haba!
A lip, a gag, a gap—Ila!
A car, a raj, a baba—jararaca!
A lam, a kas, a kasa—kamala!
A malar, a pax, a para—lama!
A jar, a hamal, a la—maharaja!
A rag, a nap, a tapa—nagara!
A dog, a cat, a cag—oda!
A man, a papaya, a yapa—panama!
A bas, a quat, a tau—qasaba!
A mar, a Mara, a baa—ramarama!
A dal, a stab, a bat—salada!
A tar, a tam, a ma—tarata!
A cur, a lass, a lar—Uca!
A savan, a mat, a mana—vasa!
A ram, a wap, a pa—wamara!
A xa, a xa, a xa—a xa!
A lak, a yam, a mama—Yakala!
A rap, a zap, a papa—Zapara!

~ PARAGRAPhICALLY SPEAKING

Ray Love questions if you can read the paragraph below. It does make sense if you determine what is happening here. (See Answers and Solutions.)

CIRCULAR REASONING

Here is a paragraph that goes across the page and sight. Now from here we find ourselves caught then in leads. Reading sentences this way surely in heads is this here as I don't see if there may be isn't a down word where in of the line and trapped! a for box the next see scary end the at am I .out way the with right the and little a gets definitely It .fainthearted no side until on continue just let's so here of out get to way and page the across back way the all goes and again turns
~ DEFINE AND DANDY

Imagination and humor play equal parts in Ray's definitions below definitions below. Various types of wordplay are involved in these "inddefinitions".

BARBECUE: a steakout
BELLY DANCING: a waist of energy
CALF: a little lower
CHECKERS: jumping to a conclusion
CHICKEN COOP: henclosure
DUELING: a sworded affair
FLU SEASON: hoarse and buggy days
FRANKENSTEIN: a hot dog and a beer
GARDENING: root awakening
GOLF: puttering a round
HOUDINI: someone fit to be tied
IGLOO: domicile
OBESITY: living beyond one's seams
PANAMA CANAL: an inside strait
PICNIC: a meadow lark
PINK ELEPHANTS: beasts of bourbon
POTTERY: feats of clay
RATTLESNAKE: tattle tail
SHAKESPEARE: someone who married an Avon lady
SKUNK: scent of attention
SURVEYOR: boundary hunter
TENNIS PLAYER: racketeer
TRANSPARENT: mother or father ghost
VENDING MACHINE: coinnucopia
ZEBRA: a horse behind bars

~ WASHINGTON POST NEOLOGISM CONTEST

Once again, The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternative meanings for common words.

The winners are:-

1. Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.

2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

5. Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.

6. Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.

7. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.

8. Gargoyle (n) flavoured mouthwash.

9. Flatulence (n.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

10. Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.

11. Testicle (n.), a humorous question on an exam.

12. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.

13. Pokemon (n), a Rastafarian proctologist.

14. Oyster (n.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.

15. Frisbeetarianism (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that, when you die, your soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

16. Circumvent (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

The Washington Post's Style Invitational also asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

The winners are:

1. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

2. Foreplay (v): Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of romance.

3. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.
4. Giraffiti (n): Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

5. Sarchasm (n): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn’t get it.

6. Inoculatte (v): To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.


8. Osteopornosis (n): A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)

9. Karmageddon (n): it’s like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it’s like, a serious bummer.

10. Decafalon (n.): The gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

11. Glibido (v): All talk and no action.

12. Dopeler effect (n): The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

13. Arachnoleptic fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you’ve accidentally walked through a spider web.

14. Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

15. Caterpallor (n.): The colour you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you’re eating.

And the pick of the literature:-

16. Ignoranus (n): A person who’s both stupid and an asshole.

G’day Dave,

Here’s a little bit of fun for the May Kickshaws.

Whaddya think?

Stuart (Kidd)

~ AUTOLOGICAL AND SELF-REFERENTIAL WORD RECORDS
Stuart Kidd brought up an intriguing question with his answers: "Autological or self-referential words have been discussed by Dmitri Borgmann in *Beyond Language*, and in these pages by Anthony Sebastian & Renee Merriam (88:131) Dave Morice (96:180) and Jeff Grant (04:220), among others. I submit that the shortest autological word is 'a' and the longest (excluding that inkhorn nonce-word hipposotomostrosesquipedalian), floccinaucinophilipification - the action or habit of estimating as worthless' [OED]."

~ NAUTONYMS

"To my New Zealand ear," Jeff Grant writes, "words like DIDDY, KICKY, LILY, NINNY, PIPPY, SISSY and TITTY are not quite homophonic tautonyms. I agree with Anil, they all combine a short i with a long e sound. Closer to the mark is LEALLY (faithfully), and LEALEY/LEELEY are uncommon personal names which may be what we're after.

Anil recently mentioned the nautonymic American ocean explorer William BEEBE. Talking of surnames, when asked "Who would your favourite British actor be?" the classic answer is "Edward WOODWARD would." Of course WOODWARD, towards the wood (OED), is a legitimate dictionary word as well as a surname.

Allowing proper names opens up a whole new field. For example, I wonder if the ghost town of TINTON, S. Dakota, rhymes with Linton and Winton in NZ? There is also a TINTON Falls, New Jersey.

Returning to uncapitalised homophonic tautonyms, the English Dialect Dictionary (EDD) includes DEEDY (industrious), PEEPY (drowsy) and TEATY (peevish), while Chambers Dictionary has (screaming) MEEMIE, a hysterical person, and Webster's 3rd has EASIES, stops rowing. The OED lists Susan's excellent ENSENSE, to instruct (obs.) and another old term, ENDENNED, variant of 'indenned', put in a den.

The OED also lists CUCKER, DUDDER, LULLER and MUMMER, which may qualify. The EDD has TUTTER and I have heard the comparative SUSSER (more 'suss', more suspicious).

I like the surprising tautonyms best, words such as RETREAT and EXECs. The lamprey fish was sometimes called the NINE-EYE (more usually 'nine-eyes'), and the online 'Urban Dictionary' lists the slang coinage PIPE EYE, a crossed eye caused by overuse of meth. Is there a condition called TIGHT-EYE?"

~ NEW MINT CANDIES

Bill Brandt sends a customized collection of mints made for just about every type of person. He precedes his list with a limerick.
This verse is to give you a shout
‘bout new candies just coming out.
With flavors unique,
Take a taste and a peek,
Then you’ll know what I’m taking about.

There are several new mint candies now available. Each one has a unique taste and has been developed for a niche market.

Abut-mints - for people who are always butting in
Acknowledge-mints - for people who write thank you notes
Accomplish-mints - for Nobel Prize winners
Agree-mints - for negotiators
Align-mints - for people standing in a queue
Alot-mints - for people buying land in order to build a house
Apart-mints - for couples who have separated
Base-mints - for ball players wanting to get a hit
Compli-mints - for people buttering-up the boss
Condi-mints - for people living in high rises
Confine-mints - for people who are incarcerated
Consign-mints - for authors at book signings
Develop-mints - for photographers still using film
Disappoint-mints - for stock market investors
Disburse-mints - for riot police
Embarrass-mints - for people who have committed a faux pas
Encourage-mints - for teachers and coaches
Endorse-mints - for celebrities and well known athletes
Engage-mints - for couples contemplating marriage
Entangle-mints - for patent lawyers
Entertain-mints - for people who sit in front of the TV all day
Entitle-mints - for members of royal families
Entrap-ments - for hunters
Experi-mints - for scientists
Govern-mints - for Congressmen and Senators
Harass-mints - for bill collectors
Instru-mints - for musicians
Invest-mints - for people wearing 3-piece suits
Monu-mints - for sculptors
Orna-mints - for people putting up holiday decorations
Parch-mints - for people who are always thirsty
Predica-mints - for people who are always getting into trouble
Punish-mints - for judges and juries
Realign-mints - for chiropractors
Reimburse-mints - for insurance adjusters
Resent-mints - for people mail things back
Retire-mints - for people who have a flat tire
Settle-mints - for divorce lawyers
Temper-mints - for people who are angry
Testa-mints - for students taking exams

~ INVISIBLE LETTERS

Bill discusses the invisible letters that lurk in the dark halls of the dictionary: “In the February issue of Word Ways I enjoyed Richard Lederer’s article on homophones. The story he created reminded me of the book “Anguish Languish” written by Howard L. Chace (I think it was back in the 1980’s) which may have the first examples of telling stories by using similar sounding words to replace the actual words.

It was also a reminder of how difficult it can be for someone who is trying to learn the English language. As shown in the homophones there are many letters which are written but never pronounced. But what is even stranger is that there are letters which are not written, but nevertheless are still pronounced. I like to think of these as invisible letters.

Most of the letters in the alphabet can be invisible. However, so far I have not come across any examples with the letters d, l, m, n, and v. I also have not seen any examples for c or h, but there are some for ch (like the ch in cello).

I took some examples of invisible letters and put them into limericks.” Here are some of Bill’s partially invisible llimericks.

Hunting for an invisible letter,
One is good, but two are better.
Where do they hide?
Just look inside,
That is, if you’re a real go-getter.

Bologna’s “a” is behind the “b”
Although it may be hard to see.
The “e” comes right behind the “n.”
So now pronounce the word again,
And you will hear ba-lone-nee.

The “k” in porcupine is a bit sticky,
But finding the “e” is not a bit tricky.
The “s” in ocean is not very deep,
And the “u” in ewe is yours to keep,
But the “z” in disease is just plain icky.

Be cordial when you find the “j”,
You win a plaque when you find the “k.”
Find another “k” when you go to school.
The “f” in laugh is also cool.
The “p” in hiccough is here to stay.

Uncover the “a” in upholstery,
The “w” in one is a mystery.
Behavior has a missing “y”,
The “ch” in nature, who knows why,
And there’s an “f” in catastrophe.

Look in the bureau to find the “o”
And there’s another inside of sew.
The “f” in sapphire is very bright.
The “q” in cupid is just alright.
There’s a “t” in missed, or did you know.

I’m told my nephew has a “u”
And martial’s “s” is also true.
Be anxious when you find the “k”,
The “f” in phone is here to stay,
And “t” in dressed will be there too.

You can’t see the “i” inside of eye,
Or see the “l” inside of lye.
The number eight is missing an “a”,
It’s also there when you go to weigh.
There’s “b” in disperse and that’s no lie.

First fly to find the “u” in flew,
And find another one in brew.
It’s hard to see the “z” in hays,
Or see the “f” inside of phase.
The “q” in cue is nothing new.

There’s an “a” that’s so bizarre,
The “k” in scull won’t take you far.
Illicit has a missing “e”,
And cousin’s “z”, a mystery.
The “o” in beau, he’s up to par.

You can have a pizza if you find the “t.”
You can be a soldier if you find the “g.”
Or sing in the choir, just find a “q”,
Or the “r” in colonel, it’s up to you.
You can end with the “x” in ecstasy.

~ MORE CONTRONYMS

“A contronym or contranym is a word with two opposite meanings,” Anil reminds us. “They’ve featured often in old issues of Word Ways but not for over a decade. These are new to this journal to the best of my memory, but not many of them will surprise.

The first fifteen are classic contronyms, the same root word that has acquired opposite meanings.

ale 1) beer with a bitter flavor (now, US); 2) beer without bitters (hops) (originally, < German)

blow 1) blow; 2) suck (“blow job”)

ingenerate 1) engendered, generated; 2) not generated, self-existent (said of God)

(same word originally but now two separate, opposite entries in Web 3)

Lucifer 1) Satan; 2) Jesus Christ (archaic)

(<‘Light bearer’; how ironic that the Prince of Darkness wound up with that name.)

lurid (of colour) 1) vivid, intense (main current use); 2) pale, wan (originally, <L.)

meditate 1) think about something; 2) think about nothing (Zen meditation)

nonplussed 1) fazed (standard meaning); 2) unfazed (recently acquired ignorant NAm meaning)

prey 1) noun of the hunted; 2) verb of the hunter

reach 1) seek to grasp; 2) grasp, arrive at goal

room 1) confined space indoors; 2) spaciousness, enough space

secrete 1) hide; 2) bring forth (a hormone, for example)

self-devotion 1) unselfish devotion (standard meaning); 2) selfishness, egoism (alt. meaning)

string [vb] 1) apply strings (eg, to a tennis racket); 2) remove strings (eg, to string beans)

tea 1a) a meal; 2a) a drink

1b) dinner, “high tea”; 2b) not dinner, something lighter, “afternoon tea”.

up 1) finished (“time’s up”), 2) not started (“you’re up next”)

These homonyms are unrelated words which are spelled the same, ie coincidental self-antonyms.

ought 1) anything; 2) nothing, naught

cower 1) [vb] be cowed; 2) [n.] one who cows

founder 1) [n] establishing; 2) [vb] fail, be diseased

glower 1) [vb] scowl darkly; 2) [n.] one who shines brightly

rate 1) [vi] be judged highly, merit; 2) [vt] judge harshly
stem 1) to arise from; 2) to cut off

And these are conronymic idioms:
hard times 1) bad times; 2) good times (4 minute mile, 10 second 100)
put aside 1) save for later; 2) discard
put out 1) offer or deploy; 2) extinguish or reject
send up 1) elevate; 2) put down

• COINCIDENTALLY DEFINITIVE ANAGRAMS
separate = see apart
separatist = is set apart
separation = one is apart
separator = so a parter
These classic definitive anagrams are from 1888, 1901, 1906 and 1940 (see Eckler, *The New Anagrammasia*, WW monograph #2). They look like they break the rule that good definitives be etymologically unrelated, as in my Definitive Anagram studies. Not so, they are unrelated: separate is from L. se- ‘apart’ + parare ‘prepare’, while apart is from L. a parte ‘at the side’.

~ A GLORIOUS TYPO FROM ANIL

A 21ST CENTURY EVIL: BRIDAL SALVES
I checked out this listing from my TV guide to make sure it really was a misprint of Slaves and not some exotic ointment with unexpected toxicity for newly wed virgins or some banned hormone preparation used to cheat in equestrian sport.

~ WOMEN’S LIB LANGUAGE JOKE

Anal notes that “If you delete the L from “dining in style” you quickly realise how important that L was. But if you delete the T from “monotheism” it doesn’t make any difference. (In other words the God of the three great monotheistic religions has a penis.)

INTERNATIONALLY WOMEN ARE SMART

Anal received this on the web:

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

‘House’ for instance, is feminine: ‘la casa.’
‘Pencil,’ however, is masculine: ‘el lapiz.’

A student asked, ‘What gender is ‘computer’?'

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male
and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that 'computer' should definitely be of the feminine gender ('la computadora'), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and
4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be Masculine ('el computador'), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won.

~ INFORMATION TRANSFORMATION

(Ray Love had the next piece in the previous Kickshaws, but it wasn't attributed. Sorry about that, Ray.)

The word FORMED can be transformed into eight other words by adding an additional letter somewhere at the beginning of the word. This occurs in succeeding steps, one new letter at a time.

In Formation Information
**Formed** (made into a shape)  
**U-formed** (shaped like a U)  
**Unformed** (having no shape)  
**Uniformed** (wearing an outfit)  
**Uninformed** (not told)  
**Union-formed** (description of a workers' group)  
**E-union-formed** (electronic version of above)  
**Reunion-formed** (description of a gathering of like-minded people)  
**Pre-union-formed** (description of unorganized workers)