KICKSHAWS

DAVE MORICE
Iowa City, Iowa

~ CITIES OF LITERATURE

Do you live in a City of Literature? Currently there are 20 Cities of Literature around the world. The complete list appears below. The year in which each city officially entered the literary world appears in parentheses. If you are interested in placing your city on the map, you'll find plenty of information below and more on the web. This list and the accompanying information was provided by John Kenyon, Executive Director, Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature.

"This is at once a celebration of the literary riches and resources of Iowa City and a spur to action," said University of Iowa International Writing Program Director Christopher Merrill, who led the UI Writing University committee that submitted the city's proposal. "We look forward to working with our new partners in the Creative Cities network -- to forging dynamic relationships with writers, artists and others committed to the life of discovery. This is a great day for Iowa City."

In 2008, Iowa City joined Edinburgh, Scotland, and Melbourne, Australia, as UNESCO Cities of Literature. In the following years, 17 more cities joined this brave new world. Here is the list of all 20:

- Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (2008)
- Iowa City, Iowa, United States (2008)
- Dublin, Ireland (2010)
- Reykjavík, Iceland (2011)
- Kraków, Poland (2013)
- Heidelberg, Germany (2014)
- Dunedin, New Zealand (2014)
- Granada, Spain (2014)
- Prague, Czech Republic (2014)
- Baghdad, Iraq (2015)
- Barcelona, Spain (2015)
- Ljubljana, Slovenia (2015)
- Lviv, Ukraine (2015)
- Óbidos, Portugal (2015)
- Tartu, Estonia (2015)
- Ulyanovsk, Russia (2015)
Other cities in the Creative Cities Network -- honoring and connecting cultural centers for cinema, music, crafts and folk arts, design, media arts and gastronomy, as well as literature -- include Aswan, Egypt; Santa Fe, N.M.; Berlin, Germany; Montreal, Canada; Popayan, Colombia; Bologna, Italy; Shenzhen, China; and Seville, Spain.


The Creative Cities Network was designed to promote the social, economic and cultural development of cities in both the developed and the developing world. The cities that apply to join to the network seek to promote their local creative scene; they share interest in UNESCO's mission toward cultural diversity. Once the city is appointed to the network, it can share experiences and create new opportunities for itself and others on a global platform, notably for activities based on the notion of "creative tourism."

The Writing University taskforce was launched by former UI Provost Michael Hogan to embrace and celebrate the UI's stature as a literary center, and to provide enhanced opportunities for coordination and cooperation among UI literary programs.

The Writing University -- represented on the Web at http://www.writinguniversity.org/ -- includes the Writers' Workshop, the IWP, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the Nonfiction Writing Program, the Iowa Playwrights Workshop, the Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature, the Iowa Summer Writing Festival, the Intermedia area of the School of Art and Art History, the Irish Writing Program, the Iowa Young Writers' Studio, the Translation Workshop, the Spanish Creative Writing Workshop, the UI Center for the Book, the UI Press and the Iowa Review.

The catalyst for the UI's literary activity was the Writers' Workshop, the first creative writing degree program anywhere and the blueprint for many of the creative writing programs that now thrive on campuses worldwide. The stature of the program was recently enhanced when two poets connected to the workshop shared the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and International Writing Program veteran Orhan Pamuk won the Nobel Prize.

To view a video on Poet Laureate Marvin Bell discussing the history of writing in Iowa City and reading his poem "Writers in a Café" or to hear audio on Bell discussing the history of the Writers' Workshop and the International Writing Program, visit http://at-lamp.its.uiowa.edu/virtualwu/index.php/main/entry/audio_interviews_and_readings

The formation of the Writing University taskforce and the launch of the Writing University Web site are detailed in this news release: http://www.news-releases.uiowa.edu/2006/December/121506writing-university.html.

For UI arts information and calendar updates visit http://www.uiowa.edu/arts.ioawa. To receive UI arts news by e-mail, go to http://list.uiowa.edu/archives/acr-news.html, click the link "Join or leave the list (or change settings)" and follow the instructions.
~IOWA CITY, CITY OF LITERATURE~

Ten Things to know:

* Cultural Capital: Iowa City is the cultural capital of Iowa with a population of 63,000. The city has a network of university, grassroots and civic institutions that teach, celebrate, nurture and study great writing.

* Writers' Workshop: As the home of the highly acclaimed Iowa Writers' Workshop -- the world's first Master of Fine Arts degree program in creative writing -- Iowa City and the University of Iowa have played a substantial role in how literature, first in America and then around the world, has come to be written. The MFA degree workshop concept has spread to more than 300 American universities and to universities in numerous other countries.

* Writing Programs: Important programs at the University include the Translation Workshop; the Playwrights Workshop; the Nonfiction Writing Program; the Summer Writing Festival (composed of dozens of workshops for the general public); and the Young Writers' Studio, a summer program for high-school students.

* Famous Authors: Since 1955 graduates and faculty of the University of Iowa have won more than 25 Pulitzer Prizes in literature. Authors who have lived, taught and studied in the city include Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Robert Penn Warren, Robert Lowell, Flannery O'Connor, Rita Dove, Jane Smiley, Robert Hass and John Irving.

* International Authors: More than 1,200 emerging and established writers from more than 120 countries have been in residence at the University of Iowa's International Writing Program, which has enjoyed long-standing support from the U.S. Department of State. Writers have included such luminaries as Bessie Head, Bei Dao, Luisa Valenzuela, John Banville and Nobel Prize-winner Orhan Pamuk. Each fall these writers participate in dozens of public events, including readings and panel discussions.

* Readings through the media: Among the valuable local institutions is Prairie Lights Books, the 'destination' independent bookstore that hosts three or more live readings every week. 'Live From Prairie Lights' has been the only ongoing series of live-broadcast literary readings on American radio, and the tradition is now entering a new era through different media.

* Publishing: Iowa City is home to 11 literary presses, including one devoted to translation; two publishers devoted to language and literacy materials; and a range of print and online journals, as well as several literary blogs. The highly respected Center for the Book preserves and extends the art of bookmaking.

* City Libraries: In 2006, for a population of 63,027, there were 63,713 public library patrons; borrowers as a percentage of population reached 101 percent. (The figure includes residents of neighboring areas arrogating borrowing privileges for their work in Iowa City.) The university's research library is the 18th largest of its kind in the country; its holdings include special literary
collections and hundreds of thousands of rare books; and it is the location of many literature-related exhibitions.

* **Literary events:** The various literary institutions sponsor more than 180 literary events a year, and the UI Nonfiction Writing Program hosts a biennial NonfictionNow Conference, which draws participants from around the world.

* **Literary Walk:** A series of commissioned bronze artworks embedded in the sidewalks downtown, each highlighting the words of an Iowa City writer.

~ **AN AMERICAN POEM IN ICELAND**

This year one of the City of Literature events took place in Reykjavik, Iceland. Each of the 20 cities provided a poem to be exhibited there in a gallery. I was very fortunate to have a poem of mine selected to represent Iowa City. It originally appeared in my most recent book, POETRY CITY:: A LITERARY REMEMBERANCE OF IOWA CITY, IOWA. Here is the poem.

**A MAP OF THE IMAGINATION**

I came to you, a city shifting and switching
From mind to mine, from world to word.

I traveled here through the countryside in 1969
From St. Louis, where I grew up.

Your buildings remind me of the toy metropolises
That my sister Delaine and I put together in childhood.

*Try Toy Epic*--that’s an anagram of *Poetry City.*
I want to go there, not to visit, but to live.

Now where did I put that map of Iowa City?
I want to see the town, I want to read its sidewalks.

I want to find Poetry City. Did I lose that map?
Ah, here it is, beneath countless poems.

~ **30 YEARS OF KICKSHAW**

Jim Puder sent the following warmhearted email to me.

"One of the two attachments to this email is a page of items for Kickshaws, if you can use them. The other one, if it's not too large for my email to send, is an anniversary card I Photoshopped for you. I don't know if you keep track of these things, but it was 30 years ago last month, in the August 1986 Word Ways, that you first hosted the Kickshaws department. So, happy anniversary! Even if we don't often have occasion to say so, the huge value you've contributed to Word Ways over the years via Kickshaws is..."
much appreciated by WW readers. I can recall many issues of the journal in which Kickshaws seemed to me to be the high point of that issue. Thanks for giving of your time for so long."

Thank you, Jim. I really appreciate your kind words. I would like to also thank Ross Eckler for inviting me to become the second "permanent" Kickshaws columnist. The first, David Silverman, was my first inspiration. I wish I had met him. The day I received the letter from Ross asking me to be the regular Kickshaws editor, I was overjoyed! Kickshaws seemed perfect for a person with a short attention space like me, and it gave me the chance to learn a whole lot about all kinds of wordplay. Editing Kickshaws has been one of the seven greatest projects of my life. I learned wordplay thanks to that column, and I met many wonderful wordplay people over the web and a few of them in person. Word Ways is responsible for a Golden Age of Wordplay, and I'm happy to be a part of it.

~ SENIOR LOVE

Ray Love shares this gem with us, especially those who are seniors (school seniors and (elderly seniors). Take it away, Ray!

I was in my back yard trying to launch a kite.  
I threw the kite up in the air, the wind would catch it for a few seconds, then it would come crashing back down to earth.  
I tried this a few more times with no success.

All the while, my wife is watching from the kitchen window, muttering to herself how men need to be told how to do everything.

She opens the window and yelled to me,  
"You need a piece of tail."

I turned with a confused look on my face and yelled back,  
"Make up your mind. Last night, you told me to go fly a kite."

~ DOUBLE FIRST NAMES

Bill Brandt says, "In the August issue Scott Craig asked if there was a name for a person's name that had a first name used as a last name (this would be the same as a person's name that had a last name used as a first name). That got me to thinking about how often this occurs. I came up with a list of 240 plus names, and I suspect there may be many more that I missed. If this is something that has not been done already, I would like to submit this list to Kickshaws.

I used the first column to "legitimize" the names used as first names. The second column shows the names where a first name is used for the last name. In a few cases the spelling of the last name is slightly different from the first name, but since they sound the same I kept them on the list. Some of these are Carol and Carroll, Kit and Kitt, Mitchel and Mitchell, Cesar and Caesar, Gale and Gayle, and Sidney and Sydney.
Has anyone come up with a name for this type of name? If not, I would like to suggest calling them “double first names” or “geminus primum names” or “diplo prota names.” What do you think?

On MS Word all the columns were aligned properly, but when I copied it to the email, the columns did not stay aligned. In case you want to use this and the columns are still not aligned after you copy it, I am also attached it to this email.

Regards,
Bill

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**The First Can be Last**  
(and the last can be first)

There are some last names that are generally thought of as first names, such for Les Paul and Jack Benny. There are also some first names that are usually thought of as last names, such as for Harrison Ford and Roosevelt Brown. The following list shows some names that have been used for both first and last names. The second column also shows names where “first names” are used for both first and last names.

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Brittany
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Brooks
Bruce
Bruno
Bryan
Buck
Caesar
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Cameron
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Carson
Charles
Christian
Christie
Christopher
Clark
Claude
Clay
Cliff
Cole
Coleman
Conrad
Cornell
Cotton
Craig
Crystal
Curtis
Dale
Dana
David
Davis
Dean
Dee
Dennis
Denny
Dick
Douglas
Drew
Duke
Duncan
Dylan

Brian Wilson
Brittany Spears
Bronson Pinchot
Brooks Atkinson
Bruce Willis
Bruno Kirby
Bryan Adams
Buck Buchanan
Cesar Romero
Calvin Coolidge
Cameron Diaz
Carey Lowell
Carmine Appice
Carmen Electra
Carol Lawrence
Carson Daly
Charles de Gaulle
Christian Slater
Christie Brinkley
Christopher Lowell
Clark Kent
Claude Monet
Clay Anderson
Cliff Robertson
Cole Porter
Coleman Hawkins
Conrad Nagel
Cornell Macneil
Cotton Mather
Craig Phillips
Crystal Gayle
Curtis LeMay
Dale Evans
Dana Carvey
David Keith
Davis Gaines
Dean Martin
Dee Wallace
Dennis Miller
Denny McLain
Dick Clark
Douglas Fairbanks
Drew Carey
Duke Ellington
Duncan Regehr
Dylan Thomas

Kenneth Brian
Morgan Brittany
Charles Bronson
Garth Brooks
Robert Bruce
Robert Bruno
Williams Jennings Bryan
Frank Buck
Sid Caesar
John Calvin
Julia Cameron
Jim Carey
Peter Carmine
Eric Carmen
Lewis Carroll
Johnny Carson
Ray Charles
Spence Christian
Julie Christie
Warren Christopher
Dick Clark
Albert Claude
Henry Clay
Jimmy Cliff
Nat King Cole
Gary Coleman
Joseph Conrad
Ezra Cornell
Joseph Cotton
Jenny Craig
Billy Crystal
Tony Curtis
Jim Dale
Bill Dana
Larry David
Geena Davis
John Dean
Sandra Dee
Sandy Dennis
Martin Denny
Philip K. Dick
Kirk Douglas
Nancy Drew
Patty Duke
Sandy Duncan
Bob Dylan
Dwight
Eddy
Elliot
Emerson
Everett
Fletcher
Forrest
Foster
Francis
Faith
Frank
Franklin
Fritz
Gabriel
Gale
Garrett
Garth
George
Gilbert
Glen
Godfrey
Gordon
Gore
Graham
Grant
Gregory
Hamilton
Hannah
Hart
Harrison
Harry
Harvey
Henry
Herbert
Herman
Hillary
Holden
Holly
Homer
Hope
Howard
Hugo
Humphrey
Hunter
Irving
Jackson
Dwight Eisenhower
Eddie Fisher
Elliot Gould
Emerson Fittipaldi
Everett Dirksen
Fletcher Christian
Forrest Tucker
Foster Jenkins
Francis Scott Key
Faith Hill
Frank Herbert
Franklin Roosevelt
Fritz Langer
Gabriel Heater
Gale Storm
Garrett Morris
Garth Brooks
George Washington
Gilbert Roland
Glen Fry
Godfrey Cambridge
Gordon Lightfoot
Gore Vidal
Graham Green
Grant Tinker
Gregory Peck
Hamilton Davis
Hannah Arendt
Hart Crane
Harrison Ford
Harry Truman
Harvey Korman
Henry Morgan
Herbert Marshall
Herman Melville
Hillary Clinton
Holden Caulfield
Holly Berry
Homer Simpson
Hope Long
Howard Duff
Hugo Winterhalter
Humphrey Bogart
Hunter Reno
Irving Berlin
Jackson Pollock
Reginald Denny
Nelson Eddy
George Elliot
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Chad Everett
Louise Fletcher
Helen Forrest
Stephen Foster
Connie Francis
Percy Faith
Annie Frank
Aretha Franklin
Ashton Kutcher
Peter Gabriel
Crystal Gale
Betty Garrett
Jennie Garth
Henry George
Melissa Gilbert
John Glen
Arthur Godfrey
Mack Gordon
Al Gore
Martha Graham
Ulysses S. Grant
Dick Gregory
Alexander Hamilton
Darryl Hannah
Mary Hart
George Harrison
Debbie Harry
Paul Harvey
Patrick Henry
George Herbert
Peter Hermann
Edmond Hillary
William Holden
Buddy Holly
Winslow Homer
Bob Hope
Leslie Howard
Victor Hugo
Hubert Humphrey
Tab Hunter
Washington Irving
Andrew Jackson
James
Jay
Jefferson
Joel
John
Jordon
Joseph
Joyce
Juan
Judd
Julia
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Kelly
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Lauren
Laurie
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Lucas
Luther
Lynn
Marc
Mack
Marie
Marshall
Martin
Marvin
May
Melville
Meredith
Michael
Miller

James Dean
Jay Leno
Jefferson Davis
Joel Grey
John Wayne
Jordon Thompson
Joseph Stalin
Joyce Kilmer
Juan Peron
Judd Nelson
Julia Child
Karen Carpenter
Kelly Willis
Keith Richards
Kit Carson
LaMarr Hoyt
Lauren Bacall
Laurie Holden
Lawrence Oliver
Lee Marvin
Leighton Meester
Leonard Nimroy
Lennox Lewis
Leslie Nelson
Lester Del Ray
Lewis Carroll
Lilly Tomlin
Lindsay Wagner
Lloyd Bridges
Louis Armstrong
Louise Brooks
Lowell Thomas
Lucas Perez
Luther Burbank
Lynn Redgrave
Marc Anthony
Mack Davis
Marie Curie
Marshall Field
Martin Lawrence
Marvin Gaye
May West
Melville Cooper
Meredith Wilson
Michael Douglas
Miller Huggins

Harry James
John Jay
Thomas Jefferson
Billy Joel
Elton John
Michael Jordon
Franz Joseph
Elaine Joyce
Don Juan
Ashley Judd
Raul Julia
Donna Karen
Gene Kelly
Brian Keith
Eartha Kitt
Heddy Lamarr
Ralph Lauren
Piper Laurie
Martin Lawrence
Bruce Lee
Laura Leighton
Sugar Ray Leonard
Annie Lennox
Lisa Leslie
Mark Lester
Sinclair Lewis
Eli Lilly
Robert Lindsay
Harold Lloyd
Joe Louis
Tina Louise
Robert Lowell
George Lucas
Martin Luther
Fred Lynn
Franz Marc
Connie Mack
Tina Marie
Garry Marshall
Dean Martin
Lee Marvin
Julian May
Herman Melville
George Meredith
George Michael
Arthur Miller
Milton Berle  
Mitchel Forman  
Morgan Freeman  
Morris Louis  
Moss Hart  
Murphy Brown  
Murray Kempton  
Nelson Rockefeller  
Neil Armstrong  
Norman Rockwell  
Norris Blount  
Norton Juster  
Oliver Cromwell  
Owen Hart  
Parker Stephenson  
Patrick Henry  
Paul Hogan  
Payne Stewart  
Pearl S. Buck  
Perry Como  
Phillips Mackenzie  
PRESTON MARTIN  
Quinn Martin  
Randal Pinkerton  
Randolph Scott  
Ray Bradbury  
Reed Philips  
Ricardo Montalban  
Richard Rogers  
Robin Williams  
Rock Hudson  
Roosevelt Brown  
Rose Byrne  
Ross Perot  
Ruby Keeler  
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Arthur Murray  
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Vince Neil  
Greg Norman  
Chuck Norris  
Edward Norton  
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Wilfred Owen  
Fess Parker  
Butch Patrick  
Les Paul  
John Payne  
Minnie Pearl  
Mathew Perry  
Stone Phillips  
Robert Preston  
Anthony Quinn  
Tony Randal  
Edmond Randolph  
Martha Ray  
Walter Reed  
David Ricardo  
Cliff Richard  
Leo Robin  
Chris Rock  
Franklin Roosevelt  
Charlie Rose  
Betsy Ross  
Rob Roy  
Jack Ruby  
Bertrand Russell  
Babe Ruth  
Jeri Ryan  
John Singer Sargent  
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~ ONE-LINERS (AND LONGER) ONLINE ~

Judy found this list of short shorts on the Web--

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

I find it ironic that the colors, red, white and blue stand for freedom until they are Aflashing behind you.
If I had a dollar for every woman who found me unattractive, eventually they would find me attractive.

A recent study found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

I just read where 4, 621, 737 people got married last year. Don’t want to be picky but shouldn’t that be an even number?

I think my neighbor has been stalking me. She has been Googling my name on her computer. I know she has because I saw it with my telescope last night.

Strong people don’t put other people down. They pick them up and slam them to the ground for maximum damage.

Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

That awkward moment when you leave a store without buying anything, and all you can think is “act natural, you are innocent”.

You know you are ugly when taking a group picture, they hand you the camera.

My therapist says I have a preoccupation for vengeance. We’ll see about that.

When someone tells me I look familiar, I tell them “I do porn”.

I don’t like making plans for the day because then the word “premeditated” gets thrown around in the courtroom.

So maybe RSVPing back to a wedding invitation “Maybe next time”, isn’t the correct response.

By following the simple advice I read in an article, I have finally found inner peace.

~ ODDS & ENDS

Judy found these on the Web, too.

"The article read: 'The way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you've started.'

So I looked around the house to see all the things I started and hadn't finished...and before leaving the house this morning I finished off a bottle of white wine, a bottle of brandy, the last bit of Makers Mark, the Prozac, some valium, some cheesecake and a box of chocolates.
You have no idea how freakin' good I feel.... You may pass this on to those you feel are in need of Inner Peace

*

Last night I played a blank tape at full blast. The mime next door went nuts.

If a cow laughed, would milk come out her nose?

Whatever happened to preparations A through G?

I went for a walk last night and my kids asked me how long I'd be gone. I said, "The whole time."

So what's the speed of dark?

If you're sending someone some Styrofoam, what do you pack it in?

I just got skylights put in my place. The people who live above me are furious.

When a man talks dirty to a woman, it's sexual harassment. When a woman talks dirty to a man, it's $3.95 per minute.

Whose cruel idea was it for the word "lisp" to have an "s" in it?

Why do you press harder on a remote-control when you know the battery is dead?

Since Americans throw rice at weddings, do Asians throw hamburgers?

Why are they called buildings, when they're already finished? Shouldn't they be called builts?

Why are they called apartments, when they're all stuck together?

Why do banks charge you a "non-sufficient funds fee" on money they already know you don't have?

If the universe is everything, and scientists say that the universe is expanding, what is it expanding into?

If you got into a taxi and the driver started driving backward, would the taxi driver end up owing you money?

Why is a carrot more orange than an orange?

Do fish get cramps after eating?
Why do they call it the Department of Interior when they are in charge of everything outdoors?

Why do scientists call it research when looking for something new?

If vegetarians eat vegetables, what do humanitarians eat?

When I erase a word with a pencil, where does it go?

Tell a man that there are 400 billion stars and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint and he has to touch it.

If "con" is the opposite of "pro," then what is the opposite of progress?

Why is it lemon juice contains mostly artificial ingredients but dishwashing liquid contains real lemons?

Why buy a product that it takes 2000 flushes to get rid of?

Why do we wait until a pig is dead to "cure" it?

Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?

Why do we put suits in a garment bag and put garments in a suitcase?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Should you trust a stockbroker who's married to a travel agent?

Do married people live longer than single people or does it just SEEM longer?

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman,"Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

~ LOST WORDS OF CHILDHOOD

By crackey, these were sent by Judy! She says, "You may be too young to remember these. I don't know who put this list together but it brought back memories."

Heavens to Murgatroyd!

Lost Words from our childhood: Words gone as fast as the buggy whip! Sad really!

The other day a not so elderly (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy and he looked at her quizzically and said "What the heck is a Jalopy? OMG (new) phrase! He never heard of the word jalopy!!
She knew she was old but not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology.
These phrases included "Don't touch that dial," "Carbon copy,"
"You sound like a broken record" and "Hung out to dry."

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie.
We'd put on our best bib and tucker to straighten up and fly right.

Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat!
Holy moley!
We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley,
and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell,
but when's the last time anything was swell?

Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.;
of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes and pedal pushers. Oh, my aching back.
Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore.

We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap,
and before we can say, well I'll be a monkey's uncle! or,
This is a fine kettle of fish! we discover that the words we grew up with,
the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind
We blink, and they're gone. Where have all those phrases gone?

Long gone: Pshaw,
The milkman did it.
Hey! It's your nickel.

Don't forget to pull the chain.
Knee high to a grasshopper.

Well, Fiddlesticks!
Going like sixty.
I'll see you in the funny papers.
Don't take any wooden nickels.
It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff!

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeable times. For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We at the other end of the chronological arc have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory. It’s one of the greatest advantages of aging.

See ya later, alligator!
In a while, crocodile

~ OXYPALINDROMORONS

Lori Wike writes, "I thought you might enjoy these silly 'oxypalindromorons' that I came up with a few weeks ago. The first is about Rex, who has an oxymoronic job:

Rex: Alert Relaxer

The second is about novelist Elle Byrd, who is fond of oxymoronic book titles:

Elle Byrd: Watery Pyre; Tawdry Belle."

~ LANGUAGE ORIGIN THEORIES

How did language evolve? Here are eight theories. The first three are actually listed in Webster’s Third unabridged dictionary. I came up with the last five, and I hope to see them listed in Webster’s Fourth. Can you come up with other theories?

1. BOWWOW THEORY Language grew by imitation of natural sounds.

2. DINGDONG THEORY Words evolved from a natural correspondence between objects of sense perception and vocal noises of early human’s reaction to them.

3. POOH-POOH THEORY Interjections such as "huh" and "whoa" gradually acquired meaning.

4. FLIP-FLOP THEORY The way the tongue flip-flops around in the mouth creates a linguistic wind tunnel. When the vocal chords are simultaneously activated, a word is born. This is why language is called a "tongue."

5. BLING-BLING THEORY Rich members of the community decide that certain sounds signify certain concepts. Controlling the language by building its vocabulary is a sign of status, power, and accomplishment--money talks!

6. YUM-YUM THEORY You speak what you eat. The words of a tribe are influenced by the way its food affects the mouth. Spicy foods result in fast, spicy languages; sweet foods result in tasty pastry languages.
7. KING-KONG THEORY Words evolve out of a need to make the language as huge as possible. Languages with large vocabularies dominate languages with medium or small vocabularies. Remember, it's the size of your dictionary and not how you use it that matters.

8. HOKEY-POKEY THEORY It addresses the question "What is language all about?" The answer comes from an ancient, hauntingly bizarre song and dance, of grunts, howls, whoops, and other sounds that evolved into many more words over the ages. Here is how the original, translates into modern English:

: You put the right word in,
 You take the wrong word out.
: You dip your pen in ink
 And you shake it all about.

You do the Hokey Pokey
And you talk and sing and shout.
That's what it's all about.
You do the Hooooookey Pokey.

~A SHORT STORY BY A LONG-AGO HIPPIE

An old friend of mine, Tim Foley, with whom I hitch-hiked to the Haight-Ashbury scene in San Francisco, recently told this tale with logological underpinnings:

"I was riding home with band leader of the California Cadillacs and his wife, who was once a flaming hippie. During the conversation I said, "I'm hip."

The wife said somewhat sarcastically, "You're hip, huh?"

I said, "Yeh, I'm hip. In fact I was so hip, when it was hip to be hep, I was hep!"

~"UNI-VERSE" POEM

Anil wrote this "uni-verse" poem celebrating this double-Dave column (Silverman and Morice):

KICKSHAWS APPLAUSE

Kickshaws
draws awes,
applause,
clause pause,
old saws
outlaws,
jaw's flaws,
applesauce,
hee-haws,  
guffaws,  
& grandmas’  
& grandpas’  
hurrahs.

(In Web-3 and Random House but not elsewhere hurrah can rhyme with saw. Applesauce isn’t a perfect rhyme of the others with its hissed -s rather than -z end sound but is throw in to represent nonsense and as a particular reference to Louis Phillips’ long series of that name in Kickshaws.)

~ ANILITY

The remaining Kickshaws items are by Anil.

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• RHYME THYME

Anil concatenates the following: "These definitions and pseudo-definitions resemble the above uni-verse—meaningful concatenations of rhymes. They’re partly lifted from a “Rhyming Synonyms” article I plan to submit later—words I couldn’t find a single-rhyme synonym for so concocted definitions for from two or more rhymes."

anility senility imbecility  (A true dictionary definition [Chambers], named after me!)  
bliss Swiss miss kiss  
bum “slum scum”  (Sorry, just quoting the snobs.)  
chauffeur gofer, loafer, chauffeur, loafer, gofer, loafer, chauffeur, loafer, ...  (What a great job!)  
dinner inner grinner winner  
doxy foxy moxie proxy floozy, bluesy boozy Susie (isn’t choosey)  
flasher rashier dasher  
foreplay pre-lay foray  
Godiva gingiva saliva  (mouth-watering sight)  
Downed Hound, found bound, frowned, wound sound round pound.  (an Animal Universe repeat)  
jock cock lock-dock ‘smock’  (well ‘dressed’ genitalia)  
Lotion “Potion!” emtion notion  (lotion ad hype)  
Maws Paws’ squaws  (Apologies again. Altho squaws is Narragansett for woman or wife, it’s now considered offensive. Not sure why. Because abused by racists? Why let them constrict our language?)  
migraine brain pain  
miser Wiser adviser?  
orgasm enthusiasm spasm  
Overindulge, ...divulge bulge.  
piggens men’s dens  
prude lewd-stewed & nude-unglued
“prick” sick slick quick trick (Pick chick, click, flick, stick dick, tick, nick.)
(The rotten prick seduced her, ticked her off in his little black book, and nicked off.)
spiel steal-weal appeal (compare lotion above, an ad or con artistry)
tizzy dizzy busy (deadline time!)
tomb doom room (answer to “Where do you go when you die?”)
Trinity Divinity, Virginity, Infinity (Father, Son, Holy Ghost)
woo pursue screw (compare prick above)
yell tell hell (really loud!)

• REBUS

YOII (answer below)

• QUASI-QUADRUPLE SYNONYMS ANAGRAM

calibrater = sizer = scalizer = arbiter
Scalizer is a nonce (of obvious meaning) but fits so well that only a strict pedant would disallow it to complete this neat concatenation. This is also sort of a synonym-unit palindrome, the same two devices, sizer and scalizer, wedged between the same two types of people, calibrater and arbiter, operating them in perfect alphabetical harmony (but at the cost of being a poorly mixed anagram).

• COINCIDENTAL RHYMING DOUBLE SYNONYM

clip ======= nip (both = pinch; & cut, pinch off; & steal; & dash)
clod = = sod
get = = net
knuckle = = buckle
mug = = jug
swell = = well
All six pairs of rhymes are synonyms two or more times, coincidentally via different meanings and, in pairs 1-3 and 6, by two different origins of one of the words.

> 1. Clip (clasp) = nip (pinch)
[clip <OE clyppan, embrace; nip <ME<LG or D, pinch, pluck]
2. Clip (cut, pinch off; steal; dash) = nip (ditto, all three meanings)
[clip <ME<ON klippa, cut; nip origin as above]
Note that clip is also a coincidental self-synonym, meaning pinch from both origins.

> 1. Clod (a rude person: Cassell’s Dict. of Slang [CDS] only, but also a general term of abuse: Oxford American Dict.) = sod (an unpleasant person).
[clod <clot <G Klotz; sod <sodomite.]
2. Clod (a lump of earth or clay) = sod (a piece of earth).
[clod as above; sod <ME<G sode, ult. origin unknown.]
> 1. Get = net (gathered as by a fishing net)
[get <ON geta, obtain; net <OE nett, <G/D for fishing net]
2. Get = net (make a clear gain after expenses)
[get as above; net <ME <F for neat <L for shine]
Get and net also form a word stool—a one step word ladder or crash-substitution.

> 1. Knuckle down = buckle down (get to work)
2. Knuckle under = buckle under (yield, surrender, collapse)
[each = same origin in 1. and 2: knuckle <a bone; buckle < a boss, stud, knob]

> 1. Mug ≈ jug (liquid vessels).
2. Mug = jug (fool: CDS)
[each = same origin in 1. and 2. : mug <Scand., mug; jug < Joan, Joanna]
Mug and jug form another word stool.

> 1. Swell [slang] = well (feeling okay, "swell!!!")
[swell (pre-slang) <OE<G, swell, increase; well <G, wohlt, prob. <will]
2. Swell = well, rise, pushed up from below or by filling
[swell as above; well = well up <waterhole <G for a wave]
Well is also a beheading of swell. I’m collecting definitive but unrelated beheadings and plan eventually to present a selection to Word Ways. Sneak preview: cease = ease, chunk = hunk, clump = lump, flag = lag, slash = lash.
The two wells can be reconciled by unselfish vs. selfish wordplay:
WISHING YOU WELL acquires the second meaning by (selfishly) leaving YOU out of it.

• FUN WITH FLAGS
Here’s one Sheldon Cooper missed on The Big Bang Theory. Most Yanks are proud of their flag and think “Red, White and Blue” are their special colours. “Hail to the Red, White and Blue!” is the proud cry of a patriotic song. Well, it transpires that 28 other countries + 29 semi-autonomous territories (etc.) have red, white and blue flags. In addition, 31 other countries plus territories have predominantly red-white-blue plus another colour. Forgetting the Territories, how many of the 29 nations having flags with just red-white-blue can you name? (Partial hint: three of them are former or present enemies of the USA!) If it’s any consolation, I could only name ten before looking.

Answer to REBUS.
I only have I’s for U.

Answer to FUN WITH FLAGS
Australia, Burma, Myanmar (but their flags were very slightly different in the images I saw), Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech and Slovak Republics, Dominican Republic, France, Iceland, Laos, Liberia, Luxembourg, Nepal, Netherlends, New Zealand, North Korea, Norway, Panama, Puerto Rico, Russia (Russian Federation), Samoa, Slovenia, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA.