

## KICKSHAWS

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### ~ JEFF GRANT ON KICKSHAWS AND WORDWAYS

Jeff Grant writes: Well done on another excellent Kickshaws. I heartily endorse Jim Puder's comments - THANKS for all your efforts over the past 30 years (where does the time go?). There is always so much entertaining and informative material in KS it is often the highlight of the mag for me too. Having guest edited a couple of KS columns many years ago I appreciate what is involved and can only say WELL DONE for your dedication. I'm glad you consider it one of the seven greatest projects of your life. I hope you will feel able to keep it up for a while yet.

None of us is getting any younger and I know you have had health problems recently. Hopefully you are feeling better now. I have heard through Anil that the future of *Word Ways* may be in doubt. I sincerely hope that if Jerry and Karen decide they can't continue, someone will be willing to take over the reins. Life without *Word Ways* doesn't bear thinking about.

### ~ JUST NOT THE USUAL

Jeff calls our attention to shortened forms that abound in the world of slang, texting and netspeak. Most people probably know of someone called **Cec** (Cecil), **Luc** (Lucy) or **Joc** (Jocelyn). These diminutives are usually pronounced 'Sess', 'Loose' and 'Joss', rather than 'Sec', 'Luck' and 'Jock'. Some words with an internal 'sh' sound are shortened as pronounced, for example **pash** (passion) and **delish** (delicious). The other day I was in the bank and the teller asked if I had the usual transaction. However, instead of asking "The usual?" she shortened the second word to a single syllable, rhyming with 'luge' or 'Bruges'. How would you spell that contraction? us? use? yush? None of these seems quite right. The online *Urban Dictionary* lists submitted spellings such as 'uge', 'uj', 'uje', 'ush', 'ushe', 'uzh', 'uzhe', 'yoozh', 'yoozhe', 'yuj' and 'yuzhe'. The similar word 'casual', when shortened, is spelt 'caj', 'caz' or **cazh** in various dictionaries. I like the last version with the 'zh' sound from (Dr) **Zhivago** and **zhoosh**, so my vote goes to the spelling **uzh** to represent the shortened form of 'usual'.

### ~ EFFERVESCENT

Bill Brandt writes "There is an old quote that says "it wasn't for bad luck, I wouldn't have any luck at all." I think this attitude could be applied to other things as well. I also think it would be nice to have a name for this category of statements. Until something better comes along, I propose to use the term 'effervescent' (meaning if it wasn't) and call them 'Effervescents.'"

Effervescent for bad luck, I wouldn't have any luck at all.

Effervescent for bad dreams, I wouldn't have any dreams at all.

Effervescent for giving me a hard time, he wouldn't give me anything.

Effervescent for bacteria, he wouldn't have any culture at all.

Effervescent for his bad taste in clothes, he wouldn't have any taste at all.

Effervescent for bad intentions, he wouldn't have any intensions at all.

Effervescent for missed opportunities, I wouldn't have any opportunities at all.

Effervescent for bad manners, he wouldn't have any manners at all.

Effervescent for misfortune, I wouldn't have any fortune at all.

Effervescent for giving me bad advice, he wouldn't give me any advice at all.

Effervescent for bad reviews, he wouldn't get any reviews at all.

Effervescent for bad ideas, he wouldn't have any ideas at all.

Effervescent for misadventures, he wouldn't have any adventures at all.

Effervescent for playing hardball, he wouldn't play ball at all.

Effervescent for a bad attitude, he wouldn't have any attitude at all.

Effervescent for a bad reputation, he wouldn't have any reputation at all.

Effervescent for bad vibes, he wouldn't have any vibesents at all.

Effervescent for bad news, there wouldn't be any news at all.

Effervescent for bad weather, there wouldn't be any weather at all.

## **~ SO YOU WANT A DAY OFF**

Bill sent the following poem. On first glance, the stanzas appear to be limericks, but the poem changes the rhythm. The result is a delightful and surprising verse with an AABBA rhyme scheme, which is the same rhyme scheme as traditional limericks. And here is Bill's poem:

One day off is your request,  
Are you sure it's not a jest?  
But who's to do the work?  
It's not something to shirk.  
Let's try a little test.

First looking at our nation,  
Let's count the population.  
300 million I've been told,  
Including both the young and old.  
That's the starting situation.

Which people work we ascertain,  
But those that don't we don't disdain.  
Age 65 plus are what we count,  
50 million's the full amount.  
Then 250 million still remain.

Youth numbers now we must obtain,  
Non working numbers to maintain.  
18 and under are what we count,  
And 90 million is the amount.  
Then 160 million still remain,

Numbers in school, the next to gain,  
Non working numbers to sustain.

College students are what we count,  
30 million's the right amount  
Then 130 million still remain.

Government workers we must attain.  
Not doing our job, we can't complain  
Federal and state are what we count  
10 million is the full amount  
Then 120 million still remain.

Military numbers we must retain,  
Not doing our job, we can't complain.  
Active duty are what we count,  
2 million is the correct amount.  
Then 118 million still remain.

More government folks we must obtain,  
Not doing our job, we can't complain.  
City and town are what we count,  
14 million's the right amount.  
Then 104 million still remain

Factory workers we ascertain,  
Not doing our job, we can't complain.  
All three shifts are what we count,  
13 million's the full amount.

Then 91 million still remain.

Service workers we must obtain,  
Not doing our job, we can't complain.  
Stores and hotels are what we count,  
80 million's the right amount.  
Then 11 million still remain.

The unemployed we must retain,  
Not doing our job, we can't complain.  
Not finding a job is what we count,  
8 million is the right amount.  
Then 3 million still remain

The numbers in jail, the last to gain,  
Not doing our job, we can't complain.  
Federal and state are what we count,  
2,999,998's the right amount.  
Then finally only 2 remain.

At the end it leaves only two.  
It's only me and it's only you.  
I'm not the one to pick a bone,  
But I can't do it all alone.  
So your day off you can kiss adieu.

## ~ INTRODUCING CHARLIE WONOJO FINKEL

John Falcone writes: "Our close friend Charlie Wonojo Finkel of Georgetown, Guyana (location equidistant from Asturias, Spain and Salt Lake City) has compiled a collection of palindromes to submit for possible use in Kickshaws. It's a Bilingual Palindromic Dictionary where each entry is a palindrome in which each half is made from a different language in the other half."

### Bilingual Palindromic Dictionary

The Bilingual Palindromic Dictionary

by Charlie Wonojo Finkel, Georgetown, Guyana, 2016

Air: aria

Aloha: hola

Am I, sir, a rarer race?: Carrera rarisima

Ana Susan: Ana Susana

An Ava vain: Ania vana, Ana

Arbor ado: podar obra (1)

Are dams: madera (2)

At: a

De rojo: red

Diva Dave, Eve: Eva David

Dumb: mud (3)

I: mi (4)

It: i (4)

Lame (5): mal

Le: el

Mido soso: so dim (6)

No: nada: non

No: non

Or a rarer race: carrera raro

Or: o  
Or: oro

Paga ya: pay a gap

Re- can redo: poder nacer (7)

Reitero menos: one more tier

Seca raza: races

So it is: Sí, tíos  
States: états

Tender y girar: I gyred net (8)

Ya del dia: idle day

...y no ridículo: Lucid irony

Ya paga: pay

(1) "Podar" (Sp) means "to prune." "Obra" is a work of some kind

(2) By Douglas Rosenthal

(3) Welsh

(4) Esperanto

(5) as in "not good"

(6) "Mido soso" (Sp) is "I measure bland"

(7) "Poder nacer" (Sp) is "can be born"

(8) "Tender" (Sp) means to hang clothes out to dr

**~ THE REMAINING KICKSHAWS ITEMS ARE BY ANIL**

• Here's a "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 Web3 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.)

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• RHYME THYME

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. The majority of these, however, are not definitions from the article but funnies I've added for your eyes only.

**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, chaffeur, loafer, ... (What a great job!)

**dinner** inner grinner winner

**doxy** foxy moxie proxy **floozy**, bluesy boozy Susie (isn't choosey)

**flasher** rasher 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!" emotion 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.

**pigpens** 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!)

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• REBUS

YOII (answer below)

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• QUASI-QUADRUPLE SYNONYMS ANAGRAM

**calibrater = sizer = scalizer = arbiter**

Scalizer is a nonce (of obvious meaning) but fits in 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).

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• COINCIDENTAL RHYMING DOUBLE SYNONYMY

**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 *clýppan*, 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, *wohl*, 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 beheadment of swell. I'm collecting definitive but unrelated beheadments 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.

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#### • 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.

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#### • ON WANTING TO KNOW EVERYTHING

A TV show I was watching was interrupted by a notice that began "We apologise for this temp..." but wasn't on long enough to read the whole message. I felt cheated. Now I'll never know what the rest of message said. The interruption should have been longer. Gimme a break!

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#### • 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, Netherlands, New Zealand, **North Korea**, Norway, Panama, Puerto Rico, **Russia** (Russian Federation), Samoa, Slovenia, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA.

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- BUT WHAT DO I KNOW?

I believe that consciousness is my ultimate self. Yet I resent the fact that it gets to sit there doing nothing ("I like to watch.") while my brain and body have to do all the work.

I believe that, when I'm on the verge of fainting, the patch(es) of maze- or computer chip-like grid pattern that invade/s my inner mental imagery is in fact the abstract pixel board or canvas that all visualisation is built upon, only visible in that hypnogogic state. When it/they totally overtake that vision field I faint, but the earlier patches warn me in time to move to a spot where it's safe to faint without hitting something valuable or dangerous.

I believe that, since light is an indispensable ingredient of our Universe, everything ceases to exist when the light goes out. I've believed this since I was a baby.

I believe that I own the Universe. This isn't vanity, I believe you do too if you'll just admit it.

I believe that the Creation of the Universe was actually just a *Recreation* of His Loneliness that He has indulged in innumerable times previously whenever He gets bored with His Oneliness. ("Oh, the infinity of it all!" He must often say to Himself.)

Accordingly, I believe that the number Two didn't exist until One decided to think laterally.

I believe that the big bang is impossible because from a singularity, like a black hole, nothing can escape. Thus the Universe as we hallucinate it couldn't be born and so doesn't really exist. (Except maybe as a black hole in a bigger Universe.)

I believe that intense and relentless pain, in theory an avoidance reaction, is useless when the cause of the pain is unavoidable, as in a heart attack or a severed limb. This to me proves the theory is wrong, that such pain is instead engineered by mysterious malignant forces or beings.

I believe that lungfish and giant salamanders are the most highly evolved of all the animals because they have the biggest cells and the largest genomes (most DNA per cell).

I believe the reason people so often call the Umpire blind is that the Umpire represents Justice, and everyone knows that Justice is blind.

I believe that crop circles are neither human nor alien creations but are the natural expressions of the aesthetic genius of hyper-intelligent plants, mostly British of course.

I believe that all other conspiracy theories are themselves a conspiracy of these clever plants in their paper mode designed to sell conspiracy publications, to which they are the primary donors and ultimate owners.

I believe the reason the thought police won't allow you to be gay anymore (unless homosexual) is because they want everybody to be miserable like themselves.

I believe the best name for a company is 'They'. You'll be quoted constantly around the world.

I also believe 'They' is the worst name for a company. You'll be blamed for everything.

I believe the real beginning of the 60's sexual revolution was the Twist. It got us uptight whites shaking a part of our bodies previously held (f)rigid. Elvis did it but few whites followed him until the Twist came along and liberated them.

I believe, well actually I learned from sad experience, that you can't put out a fire by farting on it.

I believe that I was chosen to be Santa Claus's right hand man for delivering his very personal Xmas gift to me.

I believe it's wrong to "ur" on the side of caution. Don't hesitate to ponder—jump in!