

# KICKSHAWS

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*Readers are encouraged to send their favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws editor at drABC26@aol.com. Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.*

## Language Origin Theories

How did language evolve? Why did certain sounds become words representing certain concepts? Here are eight theories. The first three can be found in Webster's Third, and they seem to establish a rule for naming language origin theories—the theory should be a reduplication of one sort or another. Using this as a basis for generating new theories, I came up with the last five:

- BOWWOW THEORY Imitation of natural sounds
- DINGDONG THEORY Natural correspondence between objects of sense perception and vocal noises of early human's reaction to them
- POOH-POOH THEORY Interjections that gradually acquired meaning
- FLIP-FLOP THEORY The way the tongue flip-flops around in the mouth creates linguistic potential. The tongue muscles react differently to different stimuli. When the vocal chords are simultaneously activated, a word is born. This is why language is called a tongue
- BLING-BLING THEORY Rich members of society decide that certain sounds mean certain concepts. Controlling the language by building its vocabulary is a sign of status, power, and accomplishment—money talks!
- 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; bland foods result in slow, bland languages
- KING-KONG THEORY Words evolve out of a need to make the language as huge as possible. Languages with big dictionaries dominate languages with medium or small dictionaries. Remember, it's the size of your dictionary and not how you use it that matters
- HOKEY-POKEY THEORY It addresses the question "What is language all about?" The answer is so simple it makes you want to dance: "You put the right word in, you take the wrong word out, you put the right word in, and you shout it all about. You do the Hokey Pokey, and you turn your voice around—that's what it's all about!"

## Getting Off to an Easy Start

Louis Phillips has come up with a puzzle guaranteed to have you batting your head against the wall. Here's how it goes: "We've decided to present an easy quiz for a change. Here is a list of three-letter combinations: FIY, GOH, CIA, RIH, CEX, RUW, HIH. All you have to do is come up with English words (no proper names) that start with each combination. How many can you complete in ten minutes?"

## Re-Sighting the Alphabet

I was at the Post Office mailing a package. The woman that waited on me has become a friend, at least by sight if not name. I gave her a token of mine that has the Universal Letter (Kickshaws,

August 1986) on it, and said to her "This is the Universal Letter. It has all the letters of the alphabet in it. Your job is to find them."

That caught her off guard. She said, as if waking up from a dream, "Oh, gosh, how many letters are there in the alphabet anyway? It's been such a long time. Maybe 24 or so? That's it, 24." Her response caught me off guard. Actually, in her trailer park, they might use only 24 letters. Next time I'm going to ask her to recite the alphabet from memory. I can imagine her answer...

Sure, I can recite the alphabet. What letter do you want to hear first? I'll just say them as they come to mind. D...T... Let's see, H...B... Oh, yeah, F... like in the F-word. Then there's K...M... and the one that looks like it, N... Hmm. A, that's the first letter I learned, and then there's the last letter, X. No, make that Z... How many is that? (Counting on her fingers) Nine, ten, eleven... Let's see, thirteen letters left to go. P...G... Damn! Don't they have an easy way to remember them? Like they do for the months? C...W...Y... Did I say K? Yeah, I did. R... Then there's the two that stand for "United States" on postage stamps, U...S... This is getting tricky. There's a few I just can't think of...Wait! I remember now. J...L...V... Gosh, that's 22 letters. Did I say there were 24 in the alphabet? Maybe it's more like 22. I can't think of any others. 22 is a lot! Oh, yeah, here's the one that means "me," I... That's 23 now. Just one more. The last one is always hardest. It's one that people don't use very much, I'm pretty sure. Most people probably don't even remember it. You know how people are when it comes to little things like that.

My daughter would remember it, cause she just learned the whole entire alphabet. She's in first grade. I've heard her rattle off all 24 letters in under a minute. I think she said all 24, but she mighta left out one. I didn't count... What *is* that missing letter? Wait, it's coming to me. It's the one that you gotta use a U with. I don't remember exactly what it's called, but I can draw a pretty good picture of it, in the air here. See! That makes 24! My daughter can say all of them quicker than me, a whole lot quicker. You know how the young are these days. Smart as a whip. I didn't learn all 24 letters till I was 18. She's just 6. Can you imagine? Just 6, and she already knows the alphabet! Course, she's got a real good teacher. I think the teacher taught her to say the letters in a particular order, cause I keep hearing the same ones arranged one after the other. Maybe not, thought. Knowing my daughter, she mighta just memorized them in an order that she liked. I did that with numbers. I can count to 100 going from my favorite number, 77, to my least favorite, 19. I shoulda done that with letters, but it's too late now. It's a good thing you don't need to use letters much in real life. Wouldn't that make the world more confusing? It's also a good thing the alphabet has only 24 letters. Imagine if it had, say, 77 letters. Even though that's my favorite number, I'd give up ever being able to learn that many different letters by heart, but my daughter would have no problem. Smarter than a whip!

## Words From Dirt

*DIRT (The Dictionary of Revisionist Translation)*, by Ellsworth Mason, is "a holistic approach to language, fusing the eye, ear, and brain into one unified perception." I haven't seen the book, but he sent me the following excerpt, a funny collection of English definitions of foreign words:

*baroque* (Fr.) outta money  
*cheval de fries* (Fr.) cold-weather horse  
*ciao* (It.) soldiers' food  
*cing* (Fr.) gone to the bottom  
*cio* (It.) masticate  
*comme il faut* (Fr.) the redcoats are coming  
*derriere* (Fr.) folk songs from County Derry  
*Duce* (It.) the two of spades  
*gneiss* (Gk.) not gnasty

*gnous* (Gk.) hangman's rope  
*Heiden* (Ger.) staying out of sight  
*hors de combat* (Fr.) camp followers  
*l'amour* (Fr.) native of North Africa  
*Lieder* (Ger.) one who walks on ahead  
*porte cochere* (Fr.) wine blessed by a rabbi  
*Prinz* (Ger.) impresses on paper  
*sic transit* (Lat.) slow trolley  
*tempus fugit* (Lat.) tempus? Fug it!

## Gazetteer of Gynecological Geography

Ellsworth has another book, *Gazetteer of Gynecological Geography*, which, as he describes, “I began after I discovered in the same week the existence of Vergina, Greece (where the bones of Philip of Macedon are said to lie) and Burton Overy, Lancs. It contains a number of obvious ones like Brest, Wookey Hole, Megundrian Trench, but also some of great refinement, such as Peterhof, Cwmdu, and Runnymede.”

## Enavlicm

E.J. McIlvane, a member of the National Puzzlers’ League, took the nom Enavlicm, a reversal of his last name. His last name contains an unbroken string of five different Roman numerals, MCILV, the longest run in a single name that I know of. If his first and middle names had been, say, Dwight Xavier, his name would’ve had all seven in a row: D.X. MCILVane. I did a Google search and found two other surnames beginning with the same Roman quintet, McIlvay and McIlvoy. Are there any others of length five or greater?

## The Complaint Department

Bill Brandt writes “I enjoyed Robert Rennick’s article on fictitious names and found some new ones to add to my collection. I now have over 400 names that I have placed in 25 groups. You have been kind enough to include five of these groups in the Kickshaws section of Word Ways [November 2003, February 2004], and since no good deed goes unpunished, I am submitting a sixth group for consideration. Sometimes when you call a complaint department you get transferred from one person to another and end up talking to several people in an attempt to get your problem solved. On one of my recent calls I ended up talking to almost a score of people. Their names sound like the conversation between two people, and tell the story of what happened.”

“Juanita Sumelp.”

“Ken U. Elpme?”

“Alma Nita Refund.”

“Otis S. Knotnice!”

“Yuri Sponsable!”

“Anita Penn; Len DeHand.”

“Wanda C. Milawyer!”

“Amanda B. Reckonwyth.”

“Manny Tanks.”

“Shirley U. Jest.”

“Haywood Jubuzzoff?”

“Noah Comprendo.”

“C.F.I. Care” (Kurt Reply).

“Phillip A. Form.”

“O.P. Quiet!”

“Dewey Knowem?”

“U. Win DeRefund.”

## More Humorous Proverbs

After reading Don Hauptman’s humorous proverbs in the August 2003 Word Ways, Ove Michaelsen sent the following collection that he’s composed over the years:

First try the impossible, then work down

Anarchy is for young minds

The smaller the dog, the louder the bark

Objectivity is not always the best objective

Last night I had trouble sleeping; when I finally dozed off, I dreamt about having insomnia

Anxiety—a N.Y. exit

I bought a Rush Limbaugh airbag: it inflates on right turns

This may seem oxymoronic, but I’m a socially-active recluse

I once had all the answers, but then I slept it off

I was born chocolate deficient and have more than compensated for it  
 A godless classroom doesn't have a prayer  
 January in Hell doesn't sound so awful; I'd be grateful for the central heating  
 I gave a street mime an imaginary ten; in return, he gave me a genuine finger gesture  
 Wednesday is the Kansas of weekdays: long, flat, and in the middle of nowhere.  
 If I hadn't spent so much time watching television, I'd have a better attention spandex pants are hideous  
 I ask my neighbors how I am, since they're always the first to know  
 Tongue-in-cheek and foot-in-mouth go hand in hand  
 My guitar is a wench that I don't respect in the morning  
 I'm an avid indoorsman  
 Never get sick in a foreign language  
 I read minds, but I'm dyslexic  
 I read de Sade's biography—it was torture  
 Two subjects I'm lousy at are mathematics  
 I like living on the edge—if it's really wide  
 Free speech comes with a price—I accept cash  
 I used to feel nostalgic; ah, those were the days

If I were invited to perform my music at an environmentalists' event, I'd be faced with a few ethical conflicts. It would be hypocritical of me to get there by car, so I'd travel there by foot. An innocent tree was sacrificed to make my guitar; the strings were produced by a polluting steel mill; the band would use electricity; the drums would be constructed of metals and animal hide, and a lot of our clothing would likely be made using slave labor. The most ethical solution to those problems would be to perform solo and a cappella in the nude, which could result in being arrested for public indecency.

### **Every Computer Owner**

Ove's sister, Jorunn, reports "I was having trouble with my computer. So I called Rick, the computer guy, to come over. Rick clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem. He gave me a bill for a minimum service call. As he was leaving, I called after him, 'So what was wrong?'"

"He replied, 'It was an ID-ten-T error.' I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, 'An ID-ten-T error? What's that, in case I need to fix it again?'"

"The computer guy grinned. 'Haven't you ever heard of an ID-ten-T error? Write it down, and I think you'll figure it out.'"

"So I wrote out ... I D 1 0 T."

### **Live Osama, So Evil**

I'm surprised more palindromes using the name Osama haven't been written. I haven't seen any, but there must be some hiding out. I tried writing his name into a few, and it's as easy as Saddam.

*Drats! A bare red rumor, a wan Osama's on a war. O murderer, a bastard!*

*Live? Not so! Has sober Osama, sore boss, a host on evil?*

*Noose, I do ten. Osama's one to die soon*

*Name no live Osama! So evil, one man*

*Cigar too raw, Sam regrets no man. Osama's on a monster! Germ as war—O, O tragic!*

## Famous Figures of the Legal World

“Well, not exactly famous, but the ought to be,” writes Leonard Ashley. “These historical persons are models of enterprise, legal beagles of remarkable talent. If history is (as the fellow says) the lengthened shadow of great men, then these men (and women, for law lately has attracted great numbers of the fair sex if not always fair competitors) ought to be inspirations to the latest generation of those in the profession.” The figures follow:

*Pro Bono and Cuey Bono* This husband-and-wife team introduced new concepts in entertainment law. They were among the first to realize that courtroom performers need to entertain the jury if they want the jury to entertain their opinions.

*Pussy Comitatus* The French have the saying “cherchez la femme.” A staid old Philadelphia law firm put on a campaign to find the sexiest female law school grad of 2001 and put this babelicious contender in front of all-male juries. They have not lost a case since.

*Aphra David* Those impressive shelves of tan-bound law books may impress the clients, but what the firm needs most is one smart executive assistant like Aphra who can put her finger on the case precedent infallibly and quickly.

*Neil Dicet* This trial lawyer was the originator of the wisest counsel you can give to your client: “Say nothing.”

*Sinead Die* This Irish colleen was the most successful lawyer in history at getting postponements of cases until plaintiffs just died of old age.

*Nola Cohn Tendere* She was the first woman lawyer to get her clients a good deal by not fighting with the prosecution.

*Ed Hoc* “My firm philosophy of legal education,” said Dean Hoc at one of America’s leading law schools, “is to have no fixed ideas.” In this way he was able to meet all new challenges with complete equanimity.

*Dolly Incapax* “My client is just not capable of committing such a heinous crime,” she would always say, and burst into tears. The jury would always give her a win.

*Abie S. Korpus* Abie coined the immortal phrase “Bury them with paper!”

## God vs. Mammon

Mel Gibson’s controversial and proselytizing movie raked in \$76 million in box-office revenues on its opening weekend, and \$118 million in the first five days. In light of these surprisingly lucrative numbers, Don Hauptman irreverently suggests that perhaps the film should have been titled “The Cash-In of the Priced.”

## New Orleans New Year Tradition

Don writes “Few outsiders know that New Orleans musicians have their own New Year tradition. At midnight they stop playing and toast each other in a hip and jazzy southern patois. This ceremony is known as the bopping of the drawl.”

## Letter Names Expanded

“Regarding ‘Letter Names’ in the last Kickshaws,” writes Max Maven, “you offer examples for ten (BCDFGJKLM) and solicit more. I can’t fill in all 26, but can expand upon your list.” With Max’s additions, there are only four letters left to find—EIWX.

**A** I know of two real examples. There is a television actor who uses the name A Martinez (no period on “A”). Also, the author of a delightful book, *The Art of Shmoozing*, is named Aye Jaye (pronounced “AJ”).

**C** One can get close—there’s Cec, a diminutive of Cecil pronounced “cease”. Unfortunately, the diminutive of Cyril is Cy, but that’s pronounced “sigh”.

**F** You’ve mentioned Effie, but another possibility would be the well-known nickname for Hugh Hefner, Hef, which, when said out loud, is pretty close to F.

**H** There are some established names that skirt the needed sound, such as Ash and Hesh (the latter a diminutive of Herschel). There’s a professional wrestler named Edge, which comes close. Also, of course, there are several men’s names that are formed from the H sound plus vowels, without any hard consonants (Hy, Hugh, Howie).

**L** You suggested Ellie, but a better solution is Elle (as in the model Elle McPherson), as that is pronounced just like the letter L.

**M** You’ve got Emmy, and of course there’s also Emma, but what about Auntie Em, Dorothy’s relative in “The Wizard of Oz”?

**N** No direct hits, but Ann comes close, as does Hen (diminutive of Henry).

**O** One might cite the author O. Henry.

**P** There are the almosts of Pia and Pio, plus the character in the Popeye comic strip, Swee’ Pea.

**Q** There’s the real-world nickname of music producer Quincy Jones, Q.

**R** One could cite the cartoonist R. Crumb. Actual name solutions would include Ari and Ori (both are Hebrew male names, and the former is also a diminutive of Aristotle). Eri is a diminutive of Erich (not very common, but nonetheless recorded). And of course there are R-plus-vowel names (Ray, Roy, Harry, Weir, Jorge).

**T** There’s the actor Mister T—that did become his legal name.

**U** There is former United Nations Secretary U Thant. Less precise but more common is Hugh.

**V** The closest I’ve thought of is Vi (diminutive of Vivian, but pronounced “vigh”).

**Y** I wouldn’t be surprised to learn that “Wy” has been used as a diminutive for Wyatt.

**Z** There was a British magician in the 1980s who worked under the name Zee.

## Double-Letter Names

Max expanded the idea to include double letters. “It occurred to me that a list of double-letter names of real people would not be that difficult to create, hence I jotted down most of the following last night, off the top of my head.”

A.A. Milne (author), B.B. King (musician), CeCe Winans (singer), Dee Dee Sharp (singer), e.e. cummings (poet), G.G. Allin (punk rocker), H.H. Munro (also known as Saki, an author), I.I. Rabi (physicist), J.J. Jance (author), L.L. Bean (clothing manufacturer), Eminem, P.P. Arnold (singer), S.S. Adams (manufacturer of practical-joke apparatus), W.W. Durbin (second president of the International Brotherhood of Magicians 1926-37), and Z.Z. Hill (singer).

Near-misses include Fa-Fa (French circus performer), Kiki Shephard (TV hostess), Nina Simone (singer), Rey-Rey (nickname of wrestler Ray Misterio), Tata Vega (singer), and Viva (an Andy Warhol actress). There are, of course, many alternative double-letter names.

## No “G,” But Still Big

Regarding “G, That’s Big!” in the last Kickshaws, Max writes “Anil provided a list of words meaning ‘large’ (or expressing similar concepts) that all include the letter G. He ended with a challenge to produce a list ‘anywhere near as big’ made up of words with such meanings that do not employ the letter G. If we drop the gerunds (which in English *must* contain the letter G and are thus rendered trivial in terms of their spelling), keeping only those that have the letter G outside the “ing” suffix, Anil’s list has 37 terms. (If you include the gerunds, there are 56.)

“Here, in no particular order, are 99 words that, in various ways, adjectivally define bigness. Some of these are debatable, but no more so than such words on the G-list as galactic, good-god-sized, and googleplexic (which, if I’m not mistaken, is correctly spelled googolplexic). Lots of Ms and Os, but no Gs.

mammoth, immense, tremendous, sizable, sizeable, oversized, outsized, broad, monstrous, stupendous, corpulent, plentiful, plenteous, sumptuous, lavish, burly, husky, hefty, heavy, portly, stout, corpulent, obese, brawny, broad-shouldered, barrel-chested, thickset, beefy, bovine, elephantine, whale-like, porcine, fat, enormous, epic, marathon, colossal, spectacular, vast, expansive, extensive, wide, widespread, out-of-proportion, tall, cyclopean, Antaeon, Herculean, Olympian, leviathanesque, monumental, capacious, spacious, roomy, ample, substantial, considerable, copious, profuse, prolific, abundant, bountiful, bounteous, massive, bulky, mountainous, bloated, swollen, inflated, distended, extended, overblown, dilated, puffed-up, built-up, hyped, over-hyped, embellished, titanic, jumbo, countless, innumerable, inestimable, voluminous, super-sized, boundless, unbounded, unlimited, limitless, illimitable, immeasurable, measureless, cosmic, eternal, perpetual, interminable, inexhaustible, infinite, endless

## “AG” For Negative

In the same Kickshaw, Anil asked if any other concepts are so closely tied to a single letter, and he offered N for negatives as one example. Max provides a surprising variation on the one-letter one-concept phenomenon: “Reading this list reminded me of something I noticed years ago, that English words containing ‘ag’ almost invariably have negative meanings, usually rather harsh. Here’s a list of the monosyllabic examples that come to mind. I’m sure I’ve missed some.”

AGH negative exclamation	MAG weapon caliber
BAG unappealing old person	NAG scold, remind annoyingly
BRAG boast	RAG tattered cloth, disrespected newspaper
CRAG severe skin wrinkle	SAG decline
DRAG boring event	SHAG crude term for having sex
FAG male homosexual	SKAG heroin
FLAG lose energy or interest	SLAG refuse, residue
FRAG to shoot a soldier on one’s own team	SNAG impediment
GAG retch	STAG to attend a social function, dateless
HAG old witchlike woman	SWAG ill-gotten plunder
JAG intoxication, or rut	TAG remnant; also graffiti
LAG dawdle, or fall behind	WAG irresponsible pundit
	ZAG shift position to avoid being caught

## Bird Flu

Bird flu has been in the news. Hundreds of thousands of chickens have been destroyed to prevent this potentially disastrous flu from migrating to humans. In honor of those chickens that gave their lives in the name of humanity, I wrote a poem about it. I emailed a copy to a friend, Bill

Zavatsky, and he said “Maybe the poem would work better if the lines were turned around.” Here are the two versions, mine on the left, Bill’s on the right. Which do you prefer?

To get around,  
Bird flew,  
In chimney found  
Bird flue,  
Got sick on ground:  
Bird flu.

Bird flew  
To get around  
Bird flue  
In chimney found  
Bird flu  
Got sick on ground.

### Cleopatra’s Nurse Builds a Pyramid

Susan Thorpe mined an amazing bit of wordplay from a theatrical play: “Cleopatra’s chief nurse in Shaw’s *Caesar and Cleopatra* is called Ftatateeta. What is not widely known is that Ftatateeta turned her hand to pyramid building:

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      F
     E E
    A A A
   T T T T
  
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Now that was quite a FEAT!

### Mary’s Lamb and Amy’s Ewe

Jeff Grant writes “The children’s nursery rhyme ‘Mary Had a Little Lamb’ has been rewritten using various literary constraints, notably the omission of certain letters (E, I, O, etc.). I had a go using word-length as a restriction. Limiting the words to a maximum of four letters, it is relatively easy to preserve the sense of the original (at left). However, if the maximum word-length is reduced to three letters, the task becomes much more difficult. I used the name Amy because it has two syllables, and is found in the letters of Mary (at right).”

Mary had a tiny lamb,  
Its coat was pure as snow,  
And any spot that Mary went,  
The lamb was sure to go.

Amy had an ewe so wee,  
It was an icy hue,  
And any way our Amy led,  
The ewe it did go too.

It came up to her desk one day,  
And did not heed the rule.  
It made the kids all hoot and play,  
To see a lamb so cool.

It ran in to her den one day,  
An act not in the law.  
Oh, the fun for boy and gal!  
The ewe so wee all saw.

### Jest Quizen

This question session by Jay Ames begins “If Babs means flat-chested (no boobs, no bubs), does the term Bubbies (as in Bubbies and Zaidies) refer to grandparents with remarkable ‘pecs’?”

“Is the Barley Mow the ‘bar le mots’? Do the Canadian-American nicknames Buckie (or Buck), Moose and Mushie stem from neighbourhood kids baptized Iacobucci (Bucci) Moses (Moishe or Mushi)? Oddly, the term ‘Mush’, widely used in London, England, has the meaning of buddy or pal, and is borrowed from a Gypsy (Didikai) word meaning ‘face’.”



"In response to the quiz 'how many fevvers in a frush's frote?' the answer is none, they're all on the outside." [A 'frush' is a songbird, not even another 'frosch', not even a German 'frosch-frog'.]

"Is Ursula Undress a 'stripper'? Was Charity Ward a nurse? Was Burl Ives ever a logroller-burler? Are Joan Rivers and River Phoenix all wet?"

### Things From New Bybwen

In the Daily Mail, a British newspaper, rebuses were featured under the name Dingbats, according to Peter Newby. "Thing" is a literal translation of the Latin word rebus. Here are four of Peter's own rebuses. Can you figure these Things out?

- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| 1. RUNT   | 4. ASCOT |
| 2. SP33CH | COAST    |
| 3. OCE N  | TOSCA    |
| A         | TACOS    |

### Five Poems by Louis Phillips

IF THE MODERN ARTIST  
RALPH GOINGS HAD MET  
THE POET E.E. CUMMINGS

Goings?  
Cummings?  
Cummings,  
Goings.  
Goings,  
Cummings.  
Going,  
Goings?  
Yep.  
Cummings,  
Going?  
Nope.

### POETRY CROSSING

This was once a caesura free zone.  
Must give one pause.

HELPING THE AUTHOR DJUNA BARNES ZIP UP HER  
FANCY DRESS AFTER HER GERMAN LOVER NAMED  
THEO HORST HAS LEFT THE COUNTRY

Closing the Barnes' Dior after the Horst has fled.

THE IRAQIS ARE IN IRAQ  
AND THE IROQUOIS  
ARE IN NEW YORK

The Iraqis  
Don't annoy  
The Iroquois,  
Iroquois  
Don't tease  
The Iraqis.  
If you wish  
Peace to start,  
Keep everybody  
Far apart.

### RIVER RHYME

Making love on the river Eiger,  
The woman under me cried out eager  
Ly, "Do it again! I am at my sexual peak."  
Too bad the canoe had sprung a leak.

## An Invariant Onalosi

Neil Bloomfield, an Australian and former Word Ways subscriber, has discovered a new type of letterplay: can you substitute the same letter in each position of an n-letter word to form n new words? This is easy to do for three-letter words (say with a P: Pay, sPy, saP), but harder for four; he found only three examples using common words. Rex Gooch discovered that OED headwords yielded bain, bead, coin, doom, peat, poot, pout, team and tout with an R; beat, boot, coot, feat, feet, goad, peat, poot and seat with an L; and tarn with an E. However, all five-letter words involve archaic spellings (for example fende, mende, polle, solle and wette with a Y). Dave Silverman coined *onalosi* to describe a word in which a letter can be substituted in each position to form another word; Bloomfield requires that the substituted letter be the same.

## Ofkfer of 21 Centukry Consort

What in the world possessed me to read the insanely-named piece of spam below? I usually ignore spam, but somehow I peeked, and what I saw was as puzzling as the title. Can anyone figure out the method behind the madness of putting extra K's in the name and all the extra G's in the text below?

Be gaware that now the peak of your segxual activigy is realgy accessibleg!

Thanks to the proprietary blend of unigque hergbs the four wondergul efgfecs are achievedg: bglood stream to the pengis is resgtored; stored tesgtosterone is ungleashed; acgtivation of the bogdy's nagtural hogrmone producgion heightgens your sensatiogn; the pegnis does englarge, the changegs are being permanengt!

At lgast you can enjoy your segxual ligfe in full measugre without any risgk for your healgth!

[Editor's note: this is a device used by spammers to get their message past filters which look for suggestive words. Fortunately for them, English is highly redundant.]

## John Kerry, the Logological Choice in 2004

Monte Zerger has found incontrovertible proof that John Kerry, Democrat, will be elected president this year--unless Harrison Ford tosses his hat in the ring (see his article elsewhere in Word Ways). Based on the numbers ELEVEN and FOUR, here is what he found:

**ELEVEN** The election in November (11/9) will reverse the 9/11 date, so the candidate who can exhibit the most 11's will win. Kerry was born December 11 1943, and K is the 11th letter of the alphabet. He played soccer at St. Paul's Academy and at Yale, a game in which each team has 11 men. Coding A=1, B=2, etc., PRESIDENT KERRY is 187 = 11x17. If elected for two terms, he would leave the presidency in 2013 = 11x183. He would become the 44th (11x4) president. His wife is the widow of John Heinz who died in 1991 = 11x181. TERESA HEINZ KERRY + JOHN FORBES KERRY is 396 = 11x36.

**FOUR** He would be elected in '04. His middle name, FORbes, contains "four". He would become the 44th president. JOHN has four letters and John is the 4th gospel. He would be elected 44 years after Kennedy (another John) was elected. He would become the 4th president named John from Massachusetts (John Adams, John Quincy Adams, John Kennedy).

**KENNEDY LINK** They share the same initials, have the same first name, are both Catholics from Massachusetts, are both war heroes, and both would follow a Republican president.