

A MAN A PLAN A CANAL PANAMA

By a somewhat temporarily insane Howie Flomberg

I plan on writing this essay about the word plan with no conceivable plan just let inertia take its course. Let's see what happens. And no, the title is not nonsense. Perhaps as an indicator of my personal brand of insanity, words trigger responses that are, perhaps, unusual. The title of this essay is a palindrome. A palindrome is a word, phrase or series of numbers that read the same both forwards and backwards.

To further compound the issue we have other issues, if the palindrome of the word "Palindromes" is examined we have the word *semordnilap*. A *semordnilap* is a palindromic word that is another word with a totally different meaning. For example: stressed/deserts, animal/lamina or perhaps lived/devil. My personal favorite is dog/god. This phrase, *semordnilap*, is attributed to Lewis Carroll, the author of Alice in Wonderland, one of our most renowned writers. Incidentally, Lewis Carroll was the pen name used by Charles Dodgson. This fact has nothing to do with this essay. However Dodgson is frequently accused of being a drug addict.

In mathematics we have *palindromic primes*, numbers such as 313 and 191 (with thanks to Wikipedia, which is not palindromic). Men's names can be palindromic: Bob, Otto or Asa. Some palindromic women's names are: Hannah, Eve, Ada or perhaps Viv.

Moving on with my personal brand of insanity, we come to phrases that contain the word *plan*. The obvious one is the phrase: Man plans G-d laughs. Obviously this phrase is not palindromic. Obvious phrases are: plan ahead, plan on someone, a game plan, plan for ... or perhaps "Didn't you plan for that?" Synonyms for plan are: strategy, idea, plot, scheme and blueprint. Antonyms for plan are idleness, inaction, inactivity, stoppage and my favorite antonym for plan is inertia. To my knowledge there are no homonyms for plan. I promise to write the next essay with an obvious plan.