

KICKSHAWS

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Readers are encouraged to send their own favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws Editor. All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue. Guest editors will continue to appear occasionally.

Daedalus's Poetry Maze

Most mazes are made of drawn lines, but this one is made of written ones. To get through it, you have to find the lines that go together to make a poem. Just obey the laws of the labyrinth:

- (1) open the door at line 1
- (2) to decide on the next line, pick one of the two numbers at the end of the line, and go to the line with that number
- (3) line 64 is the exit (there is only one path that works)
- (4) the solution path forms a 32-line poem in rhyming couplets
- (5) each couplet has a different end rhyme

When you've finished, try finding the path that goes through all the unused lines. It works the same way and results in a second 32-line poem.

- 1 You open up the door. (3,6)
- 2 As quickly as you dare (17,24)
- 3 The shadows tell you more, (44,58)
- 4 And then you see the chair. (2,11)
- 5 Like cobwebs on a broom (36,39)
- 6 The words upon the floor (5,42)
- 7 That hide within the gloom (34,36)
- 8 You've read the ancient lore, (3,6)
- 9 And step through clammy air (2,11)
- 10 To nowhere. Yes, take heed (12,34)
- 11 The Minotaur sits there. (46,47)
- 12 And watch your step indeed (35,49)
- 13 You enter with a groan (9,21)
- 14 The Minotaur, in jest, (16,23)
- 15 You know you're not alone, (4,35)
- 16 Says, "Welcome, be my guest. (43,52)
- 17 This is my humble home (19,54)
- 18 And placed, where none expects it, (20,64)
- 19 As intricate as Rome, (51,53)
- 20 Your image, though, deflects it." (47,59)
- 21 He slowly rubs his vest (16,23)
- 22 And shakes your shaking hands. (14,21)

- 23 And says, "Your last request (29,56)
 24 To reach the glass whose sands (22,45)
 25 Behind you starts to scurry. (42,46)
 26 By overlooking clues (5,37)
 27 You're in no real hurry, (8,37)
 28 Instead, admire the views (7,10)
 29 Is my command. Your ways (31,50)
 30 Will help you not at all. (41,58)
 31 It's time for you to graze (47,56)
 32 And finally you'll fall. (18,38)
 33 Don't bother using twine (9,43)
 34 And shroud your future tomb. (49,62)
 35 Because there is no sign (33,57)
 36 Where hallways end in doom. (4,51)
 37 For you're the master planner. (39,48)
 38 You'll end your days in fear!" (15,40)
 39 You built this puzzling manor, (18,24)
 40 He leaves you with a sneer. (53,61)
 41 It's useless. You will lose (26,28)
 42 Lead to a hall of stone. (13,15)
 43 To mark the paths you choose. (26,28)
 44 Much more than books you own. (13,27)
 45 Keep time in shifting lands. (7,14)
 46 You read a tattered banner. (48,55)
 47 You tremble as he stands (22,45)
 48 "My maze works in this manner: (17,62)
 49 The writing on the wall (30,32)
 50 Will end within my maze. (17,38)
 51 You'll creep before you crawl, (30,32)
 52 The nights have lost their days. (31,50)
 53 But all roads here just lead (12,55)
 54 Beneath the starry dome (10,63)
 55 To traps. Now do you need (44,59)
 56 Where many seekers roam (54,61)
 57 To help you--not a line. (29,41)
 58 There's no way out of here!" (40,60)
 59 A goblet of this wine? (33,57)
 60 You watch him disappear. (52,63)
 61 Then something wet and furry (19,25)
 62 Like mirrors, life reflects it; (20,64)
 63 He's gone, but you don't worry: (25,27)
 64 The only secret exit.

Equilateral Number Words

ONE, TWO, SIX and TEN are equilateral number words--that is, each one has the same number of letters. If FIVE were spelled FIV, there would be five three-letter names, and FIV would represent the number in the set. Any set that includes its own count as a member is self-referential. Eight-letter number words form the smallest such set, since there are 13 members, and THIRTEEN is a member: THIRTEEN, FOURTEEN, EIGHTEEN, NINETEEN, FORTY-

ONE, FORTY-TWO, FORTY-SIX, FIFTY-ONE, FIFTY-TWO, FIFTY-SIX, SIXTY-ONE, SIXTY-TWO, SIXTY-SIX. So do nine-letter and ten-letter number words, with 22 and 35 members respectively. There are 32 eleven-letter words, ranging from TWENTY-FOUR to TEN BILLION, but THIRTY-TWO isn't a member. Beyond that, it seems that there are no more self-referential sets: the total number of members in each case is probably lower than the lowest member. (Can you prove otherwise?) ONE-TWO-SIX-TEN is the smallest set of equilaterals, but the largest set is very large indeed. Ed Wolpow (August 1981) showed that the 758-letter set has one sextillion members!

Poetic Deregulation

Kay Haugaard acknowledges our unacknowledged legislators with
 Poets don't slavishly follow rules
 Especially ones they're taught in schools.
 When rules fit handily poets take 'em.
 But as for rules mostly, poets make 'em.

Crossing the Chunnel

The British and the French now have the CHUNNEL, a portmanteau word for CHannel tUNNEL, which is what they call the recently-built underwater passageway between them. CHUNNEL is a great word, and it should be emulated. Some possibilities include TOWN ROAD, LAke PaRK, River bANK, Hill drIVE, and Village ALLEY. Any other chunnelisms, real or imagined?

A Mystery Unraveled

Oren Dalton found a mistake in the last Kickshaws that reveals my lack of knowledge of classic mystery stories. In mentioning Charlie Chan, I was thinking of Peter Lorre. Oren writes "'Ll: A Poem" is a bone for picking. In the second verse you state 'Charlie Chan'll / Murder someone.' Charlie Chan would never murder anyone. To the contrary, he breeds like a grasshopper. As a long-time mystery fan (note I said MYSTERY, not crime or thriller) I feel Charlie's good name needs to be protected. I suggest modifying the verse to the following: 'So you turn a different channel / To a crime show. Charlie Chan'll / Solve a murder...' Not only is it less National-Enquireish, but it improves the meter. It is changed from duh-duh-DUM-duh to DUM-duh-duh-duh; we feel like we're back on the train, moving over a track with rail joints every 5'7". I resisted changing 'crime show' to 'myst'ry' because, what the hell, a crime was committed."

Malappropriate

Peter Newby reveals some amazing-but-true television gaffes that he heard: "The descendants of Mrs. Malaprop are alive and well. Many of them are to be found on British TV, usually amateurs but not necessarily so! The following are recent genuine quotes:

The United Kingdom and area [spokeswoman on sports program]
 A vowel and a continent [Countdown]

As they language in their prison cell [breakfast news programme]
 Dracula lives in Pennsylvania [Talkabout]
 Whalers hunt with a lampoon [Talkabout]

Famous Feminist Onomastics

As a follow-up to my list of female last names in the previous issue, Peter writes "May I bring to your attention the following? Michel de NOSTRADAME (Nostradamus) and the equally literate Walter de la MARE. HANNAH-BARBARA -- was it destiny that brought together the movie cartoonists William and Joseph to form their own company? Tinseltown also has such as Bob HOPE, the actor Donald MAY, and the film hairstylist Donna SIS. Historically, one has such as MACBETH (Mac being Scots for 'son of') and Admiral Horatio NELSON (son of Nell?), and the two who enjoyed target practice with 'sitting duck' targets, General Santa ANNA and Jack RUBY. We Brits would consider that former England cricket captain Peter MAY to be a better example of the previously-noted MAY surname. Speaking of sports that mean nothing to your mainly American readership, the fiancée of World Snooker champion Stephen Hendry is the deliciously-named MANDY TART! Another Brit is the round-the-world yachtsman Sir Alec ROSE. Mary ELIZABETH certainly opened up a can of wormesses when she introduced herself to you those fifteen long years ago!"

Logomotives

Peter suggests a wordplay sentence form in which a famous name is followed by a word that completes the sentence and puns on the name. This delightful form has a lot of potential for fun, and it's most easily demonstrated by his examples. Can you add?

Was Vincent Price conscious?
 Is Glenn Close up?
 Was Robert Frost bitten?
 Is Doris Day light?
 Was Barbara Bush whacked?
 Is Koo Stark naked?
 Was Donald Duck billed?
 Is Colonel North bound?
 Was Tyrone Power hungry?
 Did Natalie Wood cut?
 Does Ruby Wax polish?
 Did Captain Kidd nap?

Rhetorical Ironies

Peter wonders if many examples of sentences like the following can be constructed. He sent the first three with a request for more, and I added the last three. They're trickier than the logomotives. Can you number your letters with some?

Do harts have hindquarters?
 Can a bride groom herself?
 Can cats dog one's footsteps?

What deer does it?
 Do soldiers arm their legs?
 Can you hand your foot to someone?

PC TV

Peter has another tele-tale: "Over here our TV seems to have taken 'political correctness' to such ludicrous extremes that our news reporters tend to be both ugly and possessors of vile voices. Even so they are not quite as amateur as tonight's woman who got her pronunciation knickers in a terrible twist. She was set the task of reading "...Sinn Fein were invited to sit down..." and, though she got the first part correct, then went on to say "were invited to sh.. er.. **sit** down..." Moments later she was talking about Sin Fein!"

The Palindddrome Challenge

In the last issue, Peter Newby challenged readers to construct palindromes having three or more of the same letter at the pivotal point for each letter of the alphabet. The dromes should make some sense, and they should avoid using initials, odd spellings, strange contractions, etc. Through an oversight, I left out Peter's examples: RON, ODD DONOR and EVADE WEE EWE, DAVE. I included examples for E, L and O, and add one about a circle of friends: NO RADII: I, IDA, RON.

Ross Eckler came up with dromes for S and T: "The palindddrome challenge by Peter Newby inspired me to try it last evening--I came up with the rather mundane BUTT TUB (instruction to place the bathtub flush against the wall; Faith suggested **bidet** as a better definition), and the perhaps-more-appealing ALLEN, ONE MESS! SEMEN ON ELLA which requires the following explanation: If Funt and Fitzgerald engaged in a tryst, here's what I'd tell him if (horrors!) he missed."

Jeff Grant sent dromes for B, D and F, and a list of remarkable names of unreal people. Jeff writes "This challenge brought to mind a friend's description of his Spanish aunt as AN ODD DONA. On the same tack, you may have heard to the 18th-century pioneer skin specialist Dermo Nomred, who always asserted that WARTS EBB BEST RAW. My favorite palindrome of this sort is the answer given by Leo Joel (Billy's cousin) when asked 'What does your family do when the church is packed?' WE PEER FAR OFF FOR A FREE PEW. Returning to the original challenge, it has come to my notice that a recent census of the town of Saxe, Texas recorded the following 26 residents of Procorp, a well-known local establishment on Teert Street. Thanks to Rall Odd-Dollar from the 'Dailie Iliad' for supplying this information (the town of Dailie is located just south of Saxe)." Is Saxe the sister city of New Bybwen?

Nora Aaron, manageress; Mabb Bam, dominatrix; O. Cocc (Coco), entertainer; Dr. Atsadd DaStard, physician; Nellee Ellen, dancer; Falstaff Fatslaf, security officer; Ms. Ogg-Gosm, masseuse; Ssar-ahh Harass, instructress; Hawaii lawah, masseusse; Bojj Job,

maintenance engineer; Modnökk Kondom, health consultant; Mella-bell LeBallem, masseuse; Callumm Mullac, security officer; Mary-Ann Nayram, dancer; Navillu Soo O'Sullivan, instructress; Von Krupp Purknov, accountant; Kiqq Qik, martial artiste; Emburr Rubme, masseuse; Miss Sim, body counsellor; Bobbitt Tibbob, dominatrix; Luuluu Uluul, singer; Trueluvv Vuleurt, masseuse; Goslooww Woolsoog, security officer; Hotsex Xestoh, receptionist; Llay Y'All, fitness trainer; Etna Rebuzz Zuberante, dancer

Alphabet of Odd Names

If the fantasy names in the previous Kickshaw seemed unusual, read through this list of 25 names (no Q-name) gathered by Jay Ames. Remember: they aren't made up.

Ananda Vivekanadaswamy, Baofeng Yang, Chevonne Flannagan, Dhiorbal McIntyre, Eleftherios Hatzis, Froima Mercure, Gunner Niedermeyer, Hollis Willis, Ivadella Jones, Joyous DeBoehke, Kwame Acheompong Mensah, Lennie Achue, Marvella Warrick, Nuria Seetram, Ophra Harnoy, Puvanaswaran Sellathurai, Rendell Byng, Sophronia Sissions, Teague Snelgrave, Uldis Berzins, Von-dee Curtis Hall, Waneeta Halliwell, Xenia Karabides, Yves God-dard, Zdislawa Staryk

Univocalic Surnames

Jay has found some long univocalic names using A and E. He writes "ANANTHASAYANAGAN is the longest A-name so far found. Under the Es, ECKERSLEY, ENDELMAYER, EDELSTEEN, ELLEFSEN, ELLEMENT, ELLENBERGER, ENGELBERGER are some of the longer ones. Nothing yet under I, O and U -- so IOU and other Wordways-ians."

Nymorhymes

Usually "Mary Had a Little Lamb" is the subject of poetic sea-change through wordplay, but Jay has moved the focus from lambs to sheep in this poem composed of last names:

Liddell Beau Pee Paz Last Er Shipp
Ann Dussin Oh Ware Tu Fein Demn.
Lever Na Lone, Annadale Alcorn Holm,
Waggoner Tallis Bee Hind En.

VIPs Revisited

In response to the Very Immense Palindromes in the last Kickshaws, Jeff Grant has upped the length 15 letters above the 25-letter VIP I provided. As he describes it, "A Cockney surgeon and his associates Des and Al are on safari with the deaf, dumb and armed Oriental driver/guide Mr. Loh. They are attempting to net or shoot game, and the surgeon is simultaneously talking to his companions and the guide. The unfortunate Mr. Loh is not only referred to as a dog and an ape, but has his innards discussed as well!"

'Wonk, ay Des? I'm 'ot, sore--t'net, syce--Loh! Coign, Al? Oh, coc' it, ape! He's a case--hepaticocholangiocholecystenterostomised, ya know.'

[WONK is a Chinese dog, SYCE is a chauffeur, and COIGN is a mount for a gun.]

Media Wordplay

On the second program in the new Hercules TV series, noteworthy for its multiple levels of cinematic failure, I noticed that a ROBERT TREBOR was listed in the credits as a guest star. Is there really an actor with that palindromic name, or is it a pseudonym?

During a recent "Larry King Live" show, Larry moderated a panel discussion of the earlier Aldridge Ames in-prison interview. Ames, the CIA turncoat, had talked about how his life had changed since he was convicted of delivering classified information to Russia. Halfway through the program, a commercial for "The Best of Englebert Humperdinck's song collection came on. As I watched the titles of the songs flash on the screen, I was amazed; they seemed to be commentaries on what Ames had just said! I wrote down as many titles as I could: Please Release Me, Let Me Go...The Shadow of Your Smile...You're Just Too Good To Be True, Can't Take My Eyes Off You...There Goes My Reason For Living...Two Different Worlds, We Live in Two Different Worlds...There's a Kind of a Hush All Over the World Tonight. Was this planned?

The new movie "Dumb and Dumber" has some of the funniest cinematic wordplay I've seen in years. I'd heard reviews of the movie warning that the jokes were juvenile, tasteless and offensive. Well, they're all those things and funny, too! While watching the movie, I wrote down some of my favorite lines. They're spoken by Harry Dunne and Lloyd Christmas, the two heroes who cross the country to return a lost suitcase, and by Mary, who becomes Lloyd's girlfriend.

One day she sent me a John Deere letter [Harry]

If I know her as well as I think I do, she'll invite us in for tea and strumpets [Lloyd]

Tell her I'm rich, I'm good-looking, and I've got a rapist's wit [Lloyd]

One time we mated a bulldog with a shih tzu. We called it a bullshit [Harry]

Nice set of hooters you got there [Lloyd, talking about a pair of owls to a woman in a low-cut dress]

Will you pick me up at 7:45? [Mary] No, I've got a few things to take care of. Let's make it a quarter to eight [Lloyd]

Stop it! [Mary] Okay, 7:45 [Lloyd]

Too Hot To Hoot

Some palindromes make sense, some don't. Some are funny and some aren't. The palindromes in this list by Tom Nobel make sense and are funny. Some of them venture into the little-explored area

of the off-color drome.

Sol led Rob to hot bordellos
 Nemo W. Ford, Dr. of Women
 Disrobe Deb or Sid?
 Mom was a whore? Her? Oh, was! Aw, Mom!
 Deb seeps, pees bed
 Hell, a 'wall, its sides reversed, is still a 'wall', eh?
 Ed, undersides reversed, is red, nude
 God, Warden! I ate detained raw dog!
 Campus motto: Bottoms up, Mac!
 I lob Mort's Stromboli

Cereal Box Wordplay

Kellogg's uses more wordplay on its cereal boxes than any other company. Apple Cinnamon Squares cereal has a crossword puzzle titled "The Word on Good Snacking" on the back. The directions begin "Puzzled about choosing between cereals that taste good or are good for you? Let Kellogg's SQUARES fill in the blanks, with four nutritious, great-tasting flavors: Raisin, Strawberry, Apple Cinnamon and Blueberry...the proof is in the puzzle!" The puzzle clues refer to eating the cereal. 1-Across says "SQUARES are great in the morning, ---- and evening." Looks easy, but try it before you're completely awake.

My favorite cereal box wordplay appears on Kellogg's Cinnamon Mini Buns. Its slogan very cleverly rhymes the unrhymable: "A Cyclone of Cinnamon in Every Mini Bun." The brand name might be the longest product title that can be incorporated into a reasonable palindrome--SNUB IN! I'M NO MAN. NICE CINNAMON MINI BUNS, but Kellogg's doesn't use it. Too bad. Before you're awake, it makes perfectly good sense.

To Your Health!

Nat-Rul Health, a vitamin factory outlet, has some of the strangest product names since the elixirs and potions of the nineteenth century medicine man. The local Medi-Cap Pharmacy stocks dozens of bottles with curious titles. I asked the pharmacist, "How could one buy MAXIMUM VIRILITY with a straight face?" He just chuckled and said "Desperation." Another title puzzles me: INOSITOL. The brochure claims that it "nourishes brain cells." Is it a real word, or a made-up word that puns on I KNOW IT ALL? The shelves are fertile with other products, including OPTI-WOMAN, SUPER NAILS, BURST OF ENERGY, S.O.D., COLON-CARE, MAXIMUM MEMORY, CHANGE OF LIFE, HAIR-VITES, LIFE PROLONGER, Q-V LEGS and UP-LIFTER.

Rolling Labyrinth

Junior Blockland, a foreign company with outlets in the US, has a wonderful construction toy called Rolling Labyrinth. The directions are fun to read, too. The author appears to know English very well, but perhaps lacks the actual experience of speaking

it. The writing shows more creativity than other ad copy. Some excerpts from the box:

The growth of children is amazingly fast. There is no limit to the world of intellectual interest. The importance of an infancy period, especially in the field of aesthetic sentiments, is thus said to be a major factor for the future of children...The new blocks added with a sense of mysterious labyrinth to the conventional blocks are creative toys of aesthetic sense that the powers of thinking, formativeness and imagination are developed unconsciously through infancy's visual sense.

The King's Riddle

In the Children's Literature classes I teach, I tell the students a nursery rhyme that's also a riddle, and I ask them if they can figure out the answer. I'd found two possible answers, but neither seemed really correct. This semester, one student came up with an answer that seems just right. Your answer?

There was a king met a king in a narrow lane.
Said this king to that king, "Where have you been?"
"I have been hunting with my dog and my doe."
"Pray lend him to me that I may do so."
"There's the dog. Take the dog." "What's the dog's name?"
"I told you already." "Pray tell me again."

Fish Story

A fisherman put his catch in sacks which he lettered A, B, C, etc. In the first sack he put salmon and wrote SALMON BAG A. In the second, he put catfish: CATFISH BAG B. He continued with bags for TROUT, SUNFISH, GAR, MINNOW and GUPPY, and soon filled them all. When he got home he put the sacks on the kitchen table and went upstairs to take a shower. While he was gone, his wife threw one of the sacks out by mistake. Which one? Why?

Sonnetized Shakespeare

Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 is one of the truly perfect poems in English. Each word, phrase and line builds the poem up to its dramatic climax in the final couplet. Perfection demands parody, and here are two wordplay parodies of the poem. The first one, which took about an hour to do, is a vocabularyclept version of the first four lines—that is, the new poem rearranges all the words of the original lines. In the second parody, all the words are replaced with their opposites, or at least with words of far different meaning. Challenge: rewrite **Paradise Lost** using either method.

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:

Summer's a lovely art. Shake to the temperate winds,
 May I date thee, Darling? And all hath lease of buds.
 Thou shall do more Summer's a short, rough day.
 And compare more, too.

Will you contrast me with the winter's night?

I am less hateful or less frigid.

Gentle stillnesses might caress an odious root to November,

Or winter's disagreement lacks none so long the time:

Most space so cold a nose from hell darkens,

Or rarely might her lead skin brighten;

Or no foul to foul most space accepted,

For determinism, and artifice's consistent tangent cut;

Or my instantaneous winter will so materialize,

And win relinquishment from this foul I lend,

And will Life ignore I stay on my aura,

If on instantaneous points from space I shrink;

As short so women never suffocate, and ears never hear,

As short dies that, but that takes death from me.

Draft-Dodger Logology

As many people know, the S in Harry S Truman is his entire middle name--a letter. Mary Hart, formerly of Entertainment Tonight, named her son A J. She and her husband couldn't decide on a name, so they settled on those two letters. She was concerned that A J might have problems should he try to get into the armed services, since they require a first name and a middle name of their personnel. This raises a question: during the Vietnam conflict, did anyone change their names to letters in order to avoid the draft?

Recruiter: Alright, son, what's your name?

Inductee: D.

Recruiter: Spell it.

Inductee: D.

Recruiter: D what?

Inductee: D--sir!

Recruiter: D is your full name?

Inductee: Yes, sir.

Recruiter: I'm very sorry, son. I didn't know. Did you lose the other letters in an accident, or were you born that way?

Inductee: Born that way, sir.

Recruiter: I'm putting in right now for you to get a linguistic discharge. We can't ask you to risk your final letter in combat.

What's your last name, son?

Inductee: M.

Pied A Terre

Susan Thorpe has found a phrase that has smaller phrases within it. According to Susan, "Of late, Ida and Peter (two of the posh set) have not exactly been hitting it off and thus it was that Peter, never for one moment stopping to consider that Ida might take him seriously, suddenly lost his temper and yelled

"Oh, go find your own PiEd a TERre!" When Ida spiritedly retorted "I dare, PETER", he was dumbstruck. Ida kept to her word, but it was only after Peter had gone out that she found herself able to pluck up the courage to scrutinize the newspaper. Ida read the PiEd a TERre ad!

Triads

About the next set of words, Susan writes "This is a simple concept whereby two-word phrases are formed from a group of three words, for which groups I propose the name **triads**. The two-word phrases must be well-known ones and able to be formed from words 1+2, words 2+3 and also 1+3. In addition, when the three words are read in order 1+2+3, the phrase must make sense. Thus, though the three words FISH BED PAN fulfill the first three requirements, they fall at the last hurdle, as FISH BED PAN is nonsense. Here are a few to start the ball rolling: LAST MINUTE WALTZ, WHITE LIGHT HOUSE, REFERENCE LIBRARY BOOK, SILVER SAND DOLLAR."

Today's Menu: Sad "Yum" Note

Susan Thorpe recently had an anagram puzzle published as a quiz in The Daily Telegraph. The newspaper awarded a book worth 25 pounds to the first correct entry drawn from the postbag. Each anagram is followed by numbers indicating the length of the words in the answer. Warning: one is not really a food dish. Here's the menu from Bert's Way-Out Diner (doubters: try a wine):

- 1 Awful rice-nail ragout (11,2,6)
- 2 Macho snake-date slop (7,6,5)
- 3 Coon crab fill (8,4)
- 4 Nut crap d'assunder (6,3,7)
- 5 Another's tail chop (10,6)
- 6 Elf stone ginger (4,10)
- 7 Pin-gruel 'mad Saddam' (9,8)
- 8 'Tod' rats in season (8,2,5)
- 9 Ma's thawed citric failure (5,5,4,3,5)
- 10 Bean pot tip! (3,7)

Grugprab, Again

Michael Helsem set me straight on the meaning of Grugprab, the subject of a recent Kickshaw. According to him it is Dalgarno's [Klingon] word for "lethargy". Try working that into your next conversation!