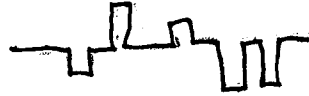


MEAN SIDEWALKS

ANIL
Perth, Australia



As mean as *Mean Streets*, Mean Sidewalks shift meaning as words walk sideways and create a new type of lateral thinking. The term came to me in a dream. Sentences on ribbons changed meanings as the words jumped around musically. Such WORD-UNIT ANAGRAMS make the dictionary dance like Eckler made the alphabet dance. (They dance the “walks”.)

It's not just words that are powerful—it's the order in which you put them.

— Shaun Micallef (*Mad As Hell*, Oz TV series, 24 April 2013)

WORD-UNIT PALINDROMES is a better known, similar but more constrained genre. An unusual word pal I've made of two polyanagrams that are word-reversal rephrases of each other, each being a definitive anagram of **self-awareness**.

See raw, fanless, fawnless, erase flaws, as serene.

Serene, as flaws erase; fawnless, fanless, raw, see!

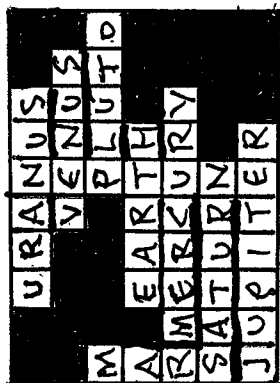
Genuine self-awareness is unclouded by the flaws of believing the praise of others (“fans”) or of the self-fawning ego. But it's more a list than flowing sentences. Word pals are easy if most words are a list: “Joe ate quinces and chilies and lemons while lemons and chilies and quinces ate Joe.”

I leave this word dance challenge for a later time and for others. I'm using Mean Sidewalks as an umbrella title for a miscellany of kickshaws I hope will be a semi-regular feature, siphoning off all my (Morice) Kickshaws-type contributions that involve illustrated or structured items, like the next.

PLANETS AT THE CROSSWORDS with Ross Eckler

#1 is the densest (10x7) crossword allowing non-word crosses. It was improved by Ross from my 11x7. Disallowing non-words I couldn't better Ross' 10x10 in 04-118. (There he also presents an elegant 6x5 chessboard array of 22 letters wherein all the planets can be spelled by King's moves, giving “crosswords” a broader meaning.) #2 (10x16) is my densest in order of solar proximity, again allowing non-words. I had to add Asteroids (“a diffuse planet”) to connect Mars to Jupiter. (Omitting Pluto reduces both grids by one. After all it's now merely a “dwarf planet”.)

1. (63%)



2. (33%)

