

MEAN SIDEWALKS

ANIL

Perth, Australia

More miscellanies, no thread. SIY. As M.S.[4] noted (Feb'18), I've dropped numbering these.

- QUIBBLING

I don't like to quibble... Well, actually I do. I freely admit it now I realise that **quibble** originally meant a play on words, a pun. We pundits and pun-nits quibble with spellings and meanings and interpretations. A healthy skepticism, which unfortunately makes some people physically sick.

- MILLION MILE MILLIPEDE MILLENNIUM

Million mile millipede millennium is, first of all, the technical term and standard unit for how far a millipede can travel non-stop in 1000 years. Symbol: mmmm.

Secondly, it's the planned Celebration for the heroic millipede after it completes the million-mile thousand-year trek. It will include a very large prize for this selfless Hero of Science.

Superhero, actually. I calculate the millipede must travel at about **5cm/s** without pause for the whole millennium to reach a million miles and define 1 mmmm. It's the right magnitude for averaging 1.0—an enlightening coincidence for the linguists at the Bureau of Standards.

These four words came up during my search for strange bedfellows (sb, '10-150), curiosities and surprises of etymological relationships. These obviously related mills fail as sb's. I just jotted them down because my muse dictated. (She's a bit weird at times, often embarrassing me.)

I pass them on for poetic charm and scientific interest.

- another UNI-VERSE: a short story with a linguistic twist

Screw-Driver

Sam the Hiver paid a skiver
(a conniver and fast jiver Taxi Driver)
his last fiver for a river!
(Tho a striver, poor Sam Hiver
is no thriver or survivor!)

Poor Sam, lacking any sense of rhyme, in a typical email-type scam, thought he was buying a huge stream, a river, but was instead buying a rīver, a splitter off of his money by a splitter with it.

- DEEP THEOLOGICAL REVELATION (a mean sidewalk into murky water)

It's often asked whether people who lived in the time before Jesus brought Salvation were doomed to go to Hell. The answer is No, they all got reincarnated. The reason Jesus came was that, as the world population grew, Heaven ran out of its 170 million quality reusable souls. So God created eternal mortality, ended reincarnation, and issued cheap non-recyclable eternal souls thereafter. This also cut down on the paperwork. Hell was a waste bin for undesirables, to keep Heaven clean. Lost sinners must pine for the good old days before God ruined it all. Well, it wasn't all God's fault. We helped a bit in causing our population explosion. The answer, yet again, is **42!** (x170m)

• A PASTORAL NOVELLAGRAM

Cottage

Get a cot,
cage, tot,
goat, etc.

(Get 0 cat!)



• COINCIDENTAL NUMERICAL PALINDROME

During the Australian Open (tennis, 21/1/18), Nick Kyrgios lost to Gregor Dimitrov by a score of 7-6 7-6 4-6 7-6. Ironically, and rather amazingly, Kyrgios won an equally thrilling previous match against Jo-Wilifred Tsonga by the mirror opposite score 7-6 4-6 7-6 7-6, for a set-unit reversal. For a true letter palindrome, simply list both results from Kyrgios' side. This gives, in order,

76 46 76 76 + 67 67 64 67.

Furthermore, the two matches happened back to back in the tournament or, historically, at the same time. And taking the phrase **back to back** (itself a word-unit palindrome) literally, the players would show *reversed anatomies*, a sort of visual palindrome, symmetrical like two bookends!

If you think this over-interpretation is poop, don't **poo poo poop!** Where would you be without it? *Stuffed!*

• ADJACENTS, or READING **THE DICTIONARY AS PROSE AND POETRY**

For a fun solitaire or party game, look for meaningful runs (phrases, sentences) of three or more consecutive words or their inflections, in the same order. I recommend a pocket dictionary for better results. This one got me started: **seminal seminar semination** (planting the seed of a seminal idea at a key colloquium). It's easy. I found 30 in just the first half of the A's in Collins Pocket D.

Best examples:

"Abolish, abominate Aborigines!" mentality of many early (and some current) white Oz settlers

Abstruse absurdities abound. sigh of the times (No typo, sigh!) abound = inflection of abundant

Acknowledge acme acne. Admit it—zits explosion!

Actuate acumen, Acupuncture! asking a lot of traditional medicine (but not too much, I suspect)

Adolescents adopt adorable adornments. Much ado- about nothing. (*Adorable??*)

aerospace: aesthetics afar etherial sky beauty

aged's Agenda Agent's aggrandisement robbing the old and defenseless

Ahoy! Aid aide's AIDS ailment! *You!* Donate to hir treatment fund *now!*

Alchemy Alcohol Alcove name of a liquor store in la-la land

Aliens alight alit. Immigrants get drunk en route, or 'coming out' UFOs land fully aglow.

aloneness alongside aloofness the hermitic life, or life at the top

AMOEBAE AMOK AMONG AMORAL AMOROUS AMORPHOUSNESS (headline)

So that's what those frisky shapeshifting protozoa get up to when we're not looking!