

fresh air—perhaps the introduction of windows that open.

7a. The assumption that openable windows in office towers will cause people to be sucked out will, once and for all, be proven or disproven.

7b. Companies that assume the opening of a window in their office tower would lead to mass suicide will investigate the working conditions of their employees.

At the grocery store:

8. Male cashiers will achieve the same speed as female cashiers, even if chromosomal transfer is required.

In the English language:

9. The debate over whether or not a sentence can end in a preposition will cease, on the basis that it is not something most people care about.

9a. Other things that will stop for the same reason include the debate over whether or not to bloody well split infinitives, and the preoccupation over the sexualization of innocuous sentences by confusing “lie” with “lay.”

10. Of much greater urgency (lest the language be purged of all grace) is the need to stop teachers teaching small children to litter their stories with quirky verbs and everything they can think of in the way of adjectives and adverbs. That is: no more ‘A’s for: “Jenny boldly and loudly squeaked and jammed her red and blue, sparkly and expensive bike with the yellow banana seat through the dirty, rotten, black and grey, slivery hole in the tall white fence.”

In humour:

11. The “joke” that someone is “challenged” (vertically, horizontally, dentally, morally, intellectually, athletically, etc.) will undergo its final permutation, will earn its last laugh, will go off to the great joke boneyard in the sky.

12. Canadian comedians who go to the United States and prosper will stop telling interviewers how they had to make the move because they weren’t appreciated in Canada, or because Canadians didn’t get their jokes. Instead, they will admit they

went to make money and that will be an okay thing to say.

13. Two men standing side-by-side at a row of urinals will no longer be seen as an opportunity for one of them to say: “I guess this is where the dinks hang out.”

In the area of East/West tensions:

14. The argument over who has been subsidizing whom since Confederation will be declared a draw according to the following formula: 2 Depression-relief salt herrings = 1 barrel of Alberta crude oil.

15. Easterners will discover that the cowboy hat (like, say, the Tilley hat) is a device for keeping the sun and rain off one’s head, not an automatic cause for amusement.

16. Westerners will at least consider the proposition that easterners who become westerners are not the only good easterners alive.

17. People who hate rodeo for its cruelty to animals, especially those who live in cities and own dogs, will ask themselves one question: Does my dog actually enjoy sitting in the porch waiting for its master to come home so it can go number two?

In science:

18. Two cold winter or summer days in a row will no longer be accepted as proof that global warming is a hoax.

19. People will question the need for genetically identical sheep.

20. People who like the sound of cloning will consider the following mathematical equation: Bill Gates x Bill Gates = Bill Gates squared. (Just in case they thought Bill Gates couldn’t get any squarer.)

21. On the brighter side of cloning, it would certainly improve competition and lower payrolls in professional sports.

In health care:

22. The human mouth and teeth will be regarded as part of the human body for purposes of National Health Care.

In the Vatican:

23. A method of birth control will be developed of which the Pope

approves (i.e., one that allows conception, birth, a life of poverty and suffering, and death by natural causes—all within 24 hours).

In U.S. politics:

24. Americans will add to their various other Constitutional Amendments the “Clinton Amendment:” whereby sex of any kind with anybody will no longer constitute infidelity. However, cheering for the rival of your spouse’s favorite NFL football team will remain an act of infidelity before the law.

In show business:

25. So that kids don’t automatically equate success with amoral and criminal behaviour, a year of media silence will be observed between a movie star’s or pop singer’s last public disgrace and his/her next hit movie or album.

And finally, in literature:

26. Little bookstores with their own look, and with clerks who know a thing or two, will be regarded as superior places to buy a book when compared to great big bookstores that all look and are the same, right down to the identically clad clerks who know nothing. This difference will be found to be worth a buck or two on each book purchase.

27. Publishers and the heirs of literary giants will respect the fact that a writer (such as Hemingway) who does not in life seek to publish a manuscript (such as *The Garden of Eden*) may have been expressing an opinion of the work (such as that it sucked).

28. Pop-up videos for Bob Hilles, Merna Summers, Greg Hollingshead and others will be all the rage on the Much Literature channel.

29. Canadians will realize that, while they love reading the literature of other nations and cultures, those other nations and cultures most enjoy reading about themselves. Canadians will ponder the reason for this.

There you go. All fixed up for the New Millennium. You’re welcome. ☺