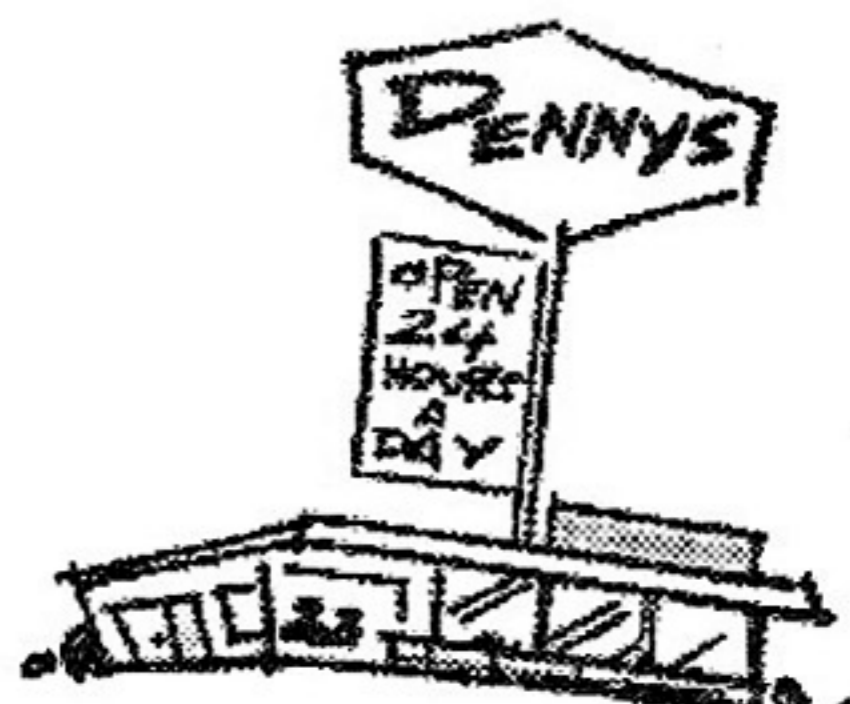
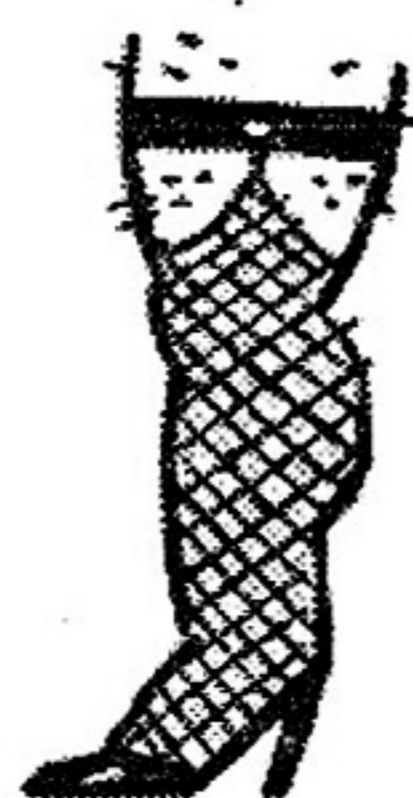


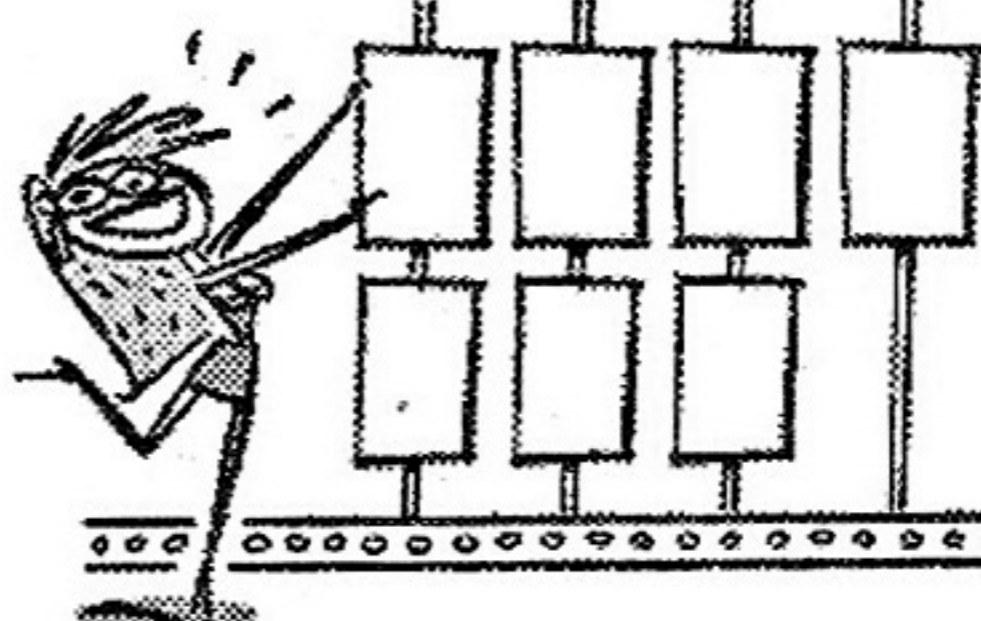
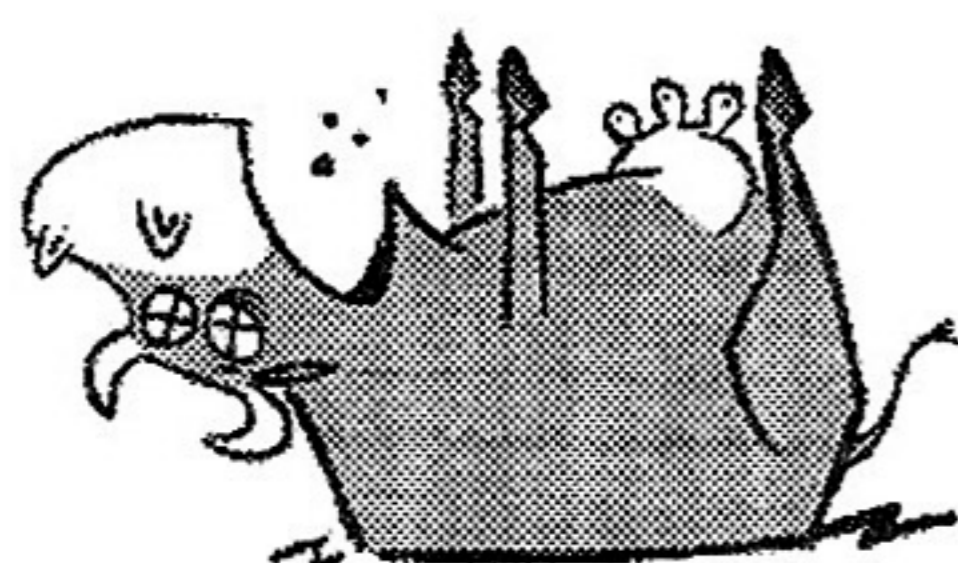
The Style Invitational

WEEK 159: ODDBALLS

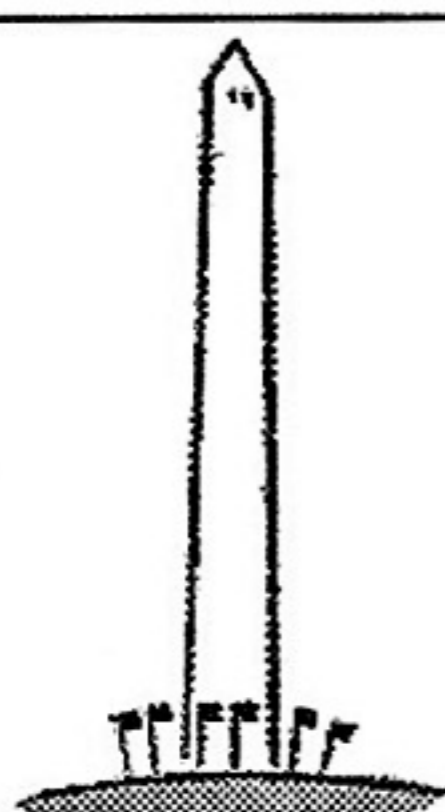
SERIES 1



SERIES 2



SERIES 3



SERIES 4



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

This week's contest: Which item in each series does not belong? Explain your answer. First-prize winner gets Laundry Balls, a fabulous prize donated to The Style Invitational by Dave Barry, who gets all sorts of crap mailed to him by alert readers the world over. Laundry Balls are colorful spherical plastic items. We cannot tell you precisely what they do, because we cannot figure it out, so we will just quote the package:

"When use washing machine, put 4 balls into washing machine together with laundries. When washing machine operating, those laundry balls turn with laundries by water stream in washing machine. When turning with laundries, the balls prevent to twisting of each laundries and striking the dirty parts on laundries. There is no damage on the clothes when washing due to made of soft plastic. Made in Taiwan."

Runners-up, as always, receive the coveted Style Invitational Loser's T-shirt. Honorable Mentions get the mildly sought-after Style Invitational bumper sticker. Winners will be selected on the basis of humor and originality. Mail your entries to The Style Invitational, Week 159, c/o The Washington Post, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20071, fax them to 202-334-4312 or submit them via Internet to this address: losers@access.digex.net. Internet users: Please indicate the week number in the "subject" field. Entries must be received on or before Monday, April 8. Please include your address and phone number. Winners will be announced in three weeks. Editors reserve the right to alter entries for taste, humor or appropriateness. No purchase necessary. The Faerie of the Fine Print & the Ear No One Reads wishes to thank Joseph Romm of Washington for today's Ear No One Reads. Got a question for the Czar? He will be answering provocative reader questions in an upcoming column. Mail, fax or e-mail your questions to "The Czar's Mailbag" here at the Invitational. The best will win insultingly cheap prizes. Washington Post employees and their families are not eligible for prizes.

REPORT FROM WEEK 156

in which you were asked to coin new words by combining the first half of a hyphenated word with the second half of another hyphenated word appearing in the same story in The Post.

◆ Fourth Runner-Up:

Mer-derloin, n. Chipped beef on toast. (Joseph Romm, Washington)

◆ Third Runner-Up:

Booby-ding, n. A red line from a poorly fitting brassiere. (Dan Chaney, Clinton)

◆ Second Runner-Up:

Valu-goslavia, n. The mega-mall that Canadian developers hope will revitalize downtown Sarajevo. (Harry and Gavin St. Ours, Boyds, Md.)

◆ First Runner-Up:

Over-suer, n. The head lawyer in charge of all the young, slave-driven paralegals in a sweatshop legal firm. (Kevin Cuddihy, Fairfax)

◆ And the winner of the paired 1960s big-eyed teeny-bopper paintings:

Tam-ple, n. The place where women go to pray for a late menopause.

(Jean Sorensen, Herndon)

◆ Honorable Mentions:

Yester-plosion, n. What happens when baby boomer nostalgia reaches the saturation point. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg; Russell Beland, Springfield)

Consis-taurant, n. A franchise eatery noted for homogeneity (e.g., McDonald's) (Joseph Romm, Washington)

Nag-istration, n. Hillary and Bill's presidency. (Dan Chaney, Clinton)

Mush-derloin, v. Result of a kick in the crotch. (Stephen Dudzik, Silver Spring)

Fly-dergarten, n. Where maggots begin their education. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Bed-and-pensive, n. A halfway house for depressed travelers. (Jessica Steinhice, Washington)

Glob-ber-surfers, n. Those who skateboard on Manhattan sidewalks. (Greg Diamond, Batesville, Ark.)

Authori-burst, n. A tantrum in which an employer asserts his authority for no particular reason. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Some-cere, adj. Being partially honest, as in one's letter to one's mother-in-law thanking her for the pink slacks (e.g., "He was some-cere when he said, 'I will put it to good use,' because he was planning on using it to scare the children"). (Mike Connaghan, Gaithersburg)

Nonethe-voted, v. Having cast a write-in ballot. (Jessica Steinhice, Washington)

Kin-searchers, n. A West Virginia dating service. (Stephen Dudzik, Silver Spring)

Catch-as-catch-and-dance, n. In ballet, the act of tossing a dancer up and hoping to catch her. (Alison Kamat, Washington)

Man-thing, n. Miss Manners's preferred anatomical euphemism. (Bill Strider, Gaithersburg)

Semi-plogle, n. Half a plogle. (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

Intersec-tainment, n. small-town fun, watching traffic lights change. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Howev-erence, n. A deep commitment to the philosophy that nothing in life is black-and-white. (Frank Bruno, Alexandria)

Suc-ware, n. DOS term for Macintosh products. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Cigar-gle, n. Brand name for new tobacco-flavored mouthwash. (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

Slobo-ville, n. Las Vegas, Nev. (Dave Zarrow, Herndon)

Po-ginia, n. West Virginia. (Robin D. Grove, Baltimore)

Tailor-face, n. That wary, slightly puckered expression a fitter has when his mouth is full of pins. (Moe Hammond, Falls Church)

Ef-holes, n. People who cut me off on the Beltway. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

Gold-greb, n. A Jewish dyslexic. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Degrada-la, n. The opposite of Shangri-La. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

Pow-ister, n. A high-profile lawyer. (Brian Baker, Silver Spring)

Re-chedrated, v. Topped off the silicone. (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

Sor-dia, n. Photos used for blackmail. (Paul Kocak, Syracuse, N.Y.)

◆ And Last:

Unfortu-portant, adj. How one feels having one's name appear in The Style Invitational. (Forrest L. Miller, Rockville)

Next Week: Warning Signs