Report from Week 988

in which we asked for ways to speed up or to add excitement to various sports and leisure activities. Lots of people suggested that NBA games begin in the last five minutes, since that’s all that matters anyway. We said we’d be flexible about what constitutes a leisure activity: So: scratching, okay; even watching paint dry, okay. Doing one’s taxes or talking to tech support, no.

2 Winner of the three-sided dice plus the instructions on exploding animal carcasses: For speed and excitement: Baseball: Spike their steroids with amphetamines. (Dixon Wragg, Santa Rosa, Calif.)

For speed and excitement: Rock-Paper-Scissors: Use real rocks and scissors, but you still have to use your hand for paper. (Roy Ashley, Washington)

For speed: The Rubik’s Square. (Jim Reagan, Herndon)

A bit gamy: honorable mentions

Require that batters’ crotches be pre-scratched before they reach the plate. (Ralph Nkiri, Rockville, a First Offender)

For every false start or delay of game, an NFL team has to replace one of its linemen with a cheerleader. (Katherine Stikkers, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.)

Baseball: Pitchers who are replaced fall through a trapdoor under the mound. (David Genser, Poway, Calif.)

Lugers slide down the track on their backs as usual, but headfirst, guided only by three rear-mounted dental mirrors. (Stephen Dužík, Olney)

Soccer: Keep adding balls until someone finally scores a goal. (Anne Clark, Rochester, N.Y.)

Binary sudoku. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Instead of using chess clocks in tournaments, have crowds of spectators count aloud.”One hippopotamus, two hippopotamuses . . .” (Don Kirkpatrick, Waynesboro, Pa.)

Divide the football field in half lengthwise, and play both halves at once — with the offense on one team playing the defense of the other. Better sideline views, and more time for tailgaiting. (Owen Hammett, Lorton, Virginia)

A golfer has one minute to make a shot before the sprinklers come on. (Dan Steinbrocker, Los Angeles)

Bowling alleys should have ball-return cannons. (Michael Burch, Nashville, a First Offender; Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

The Game of REAL Life: Just hand all cash, stock certificates and properties to the banker. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Call-and-response tennis: The audience divides into two groups to enthusiastically echo every grunt and squeal made by the players. (Amanda Yanovitch, Midlothian, Va.)

Hockey: Put the penalty box inside the goal. (David Genser)

Replace those boring X’s and O’s with real flicks, tabs and toes. (Laurie Tompkins, Rockville)

Institute 40-second clocks in stadium restrooms. When a stall’s clock expires, someone in a striped uniform bangs on the door, peels the user with yellow flags and blows his whistle until the person finishes. (Gregory Koch, Starrs, Conn.)

Water polo: Award points for removing an opponent’s swimsuit. (Mike Gips, Bethesda)

Taking a cue from baseball: Golfers should be acknowledged with their own “putting songs” tailored over loudspeakers as they prepare their shots. (David Ballard, Reston)

Pictionary: The Muhammad card. (Danny Brawman, Chicago)

Watching paint dry: First take away the “wet paint” sign . . . (David Genser)

To make opera go faster, give the fat lady the first aria. (Beverley Sharp, Alexandria, Va.)

Speed up the men’s 100-meter dash by renaming it “foreplay.” (Dion Black, Washington)

Boxing: Between rounds, don’t have those bikini-clad ring girls prance around degradingly with signs. Have them fight each other. (David Genser)

Still running – deadline Monday night — is Week 991, the contest for neologisms incorporating the letter block V-O-T-E (in any order). See bit.ly/inv991.

INTERNET

ShoutRoulette: The Web site where you’re proud to be loud

by Will Oremus

Are you sick and tired of civil discourse? Fed up with a media landscape populating by soft-spoken commentators droning unflappably about complex, nuanced issues? Exhausted by the societal norms that require you to treat others politely and with respect, even when you disagree with them? Then I may have just the Web site for you. It’s called ShoutRoulette, and it bills itself as “the fastest, simplest way to yell at people you think are morons about the things you are right about.”

The premise is simple. You cannot stand, say, Chipotle burritos. You know there are imbeciles out there who, for unfathomable reasons of their own, like Chipotle burritos. ShoutRoulette promises to seamlessly connect you with them via video chat. Voilà! Now you can berate one another in real time.

The topic doesn’t have to be food-related. The site will pair you with wrongheaded fools who hold views opposite yours.

The site, which loosely parodies the video-chat site Chatroulette, is the brainchild of New York-based comedian Matt Kliman, who brought the idea to a “Comedy Hack Day” put on by author and comedian Baratunde Thurston. At the hackathon, Kliman got together with developers Steve Peck, Jeff Escalante and Eimin Israfil to bring the concept to reality. They built a basic version of ShoutRoulette in two days, and it took top prize, generating enough enthusiasm that they decided to keep working on it.

The site’s big challenge will be to differentiate itself from existing offerings on cable news.