Report from Week 1004
Our annual contest for poems about those who died in the previous year: Frequently noted was that Dave Brubeck is taking five and much longer; that Sherman Hemsley moved on up; that Robin Gibb’s no longer stayin’ alive; that Vidal Sassoon and Phyllis Diller were hair today, gone tomorrow; and that go-go pioneer Chuck Brown was, of course, gone-gone.

2 Winner of the toilet-shaped coffee cup: Edward Archbald, who died after winning aroach-eating contest
Hey, the next time that someone approaches With a contest to eat the most roaches, Though the prize may be nice, suggest you think twice. ’Cause it might be your big buenas noches.
(Nan Reiner, Alexandria)

3 A eulogy for Sally Ride is not off-base; I wouldn’t halt one, though perhaps I’d pause it To ponder how she managed a career in space Yet all the while remaining in a closet.
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

4 Thomas Kinkade So very gentle into that good night With houses quaint where Pollyanna lived. ’Rage? Nah,” said the Painter of the Light.
(Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

Digging deeper: Honorable mentions
Marvin Miller, head of the Major League Baseball Players Union
When crafty Marvin Miller led the MLBPA, ’Twas then that players’ salaries were rocketing away. He made some people very rich, but there’s one problem: That’s the reason that it costs a hundred bucks to see The reason that it costs a hundred bucks to see
Musicians can’t ignore.

Earl Scruggs saunters up to the Heavenly Gate. There’s a banjo audition. How easy is that? Saint Peter’s on harp and his playing sounds great, But an angel joins in on guitar — and he’s Flatt.

Murray Lender, of the People Chosen, Made a fortune large in bagels frozen. We’ll always miss him dearly, even though he Made a fortune large in bagels frozen.

Don Cornelius He introduced soul music to the nation, But now, alas, Don’s soul train’s left the station. Said Jean Harris, “This new Scarsdale Diet Is amazing! You really must try it!
With just four rapid rounds I shed 200 pounds!
(Now I just hope the jury will buy it.
(Christopher Lamora)

Robert B. Sherman, Disney songwriter Earthworms over earworns crawl, Since it’s a pall world after all. Said Jean Harris, “This new Scarsdale Diet Is amazing! You really must try it!

John Demjanjuk, Nazi guard Living in our own back yard, Was innocent, he often said, But all his witnesses are dead.

Art Modell, owner of the Cleveland Browns (until he moved them in 1996) On a winter midnight dreary, while snow blew in from Lake Erie, Art came up with a new theory he had failed to find before. “My team needs some warmer weather! Sever Since it’s a pall world after all.

Joe Paterno, once revered, Whose earthly days are through, Will sadly be remembered most For what he didn’t do. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

Arlen Specter Now that really he’s a specter, No one chivvies, snipes or chides That former GOP defector Arlen’s once again switched sides.
(Don Cornwell, Pasadena, Calif.)

Robert B. Sherman, Disney songwriter Earthworms over earworns crawl, Since it’s a pall world after all.

Bill Gates, Microsoft mogul He built it long and strong, he built it fast and loud, Yet all the while remaining in a closet. Said Jean Harris, “This new Scarsdale Diet Is amazing! You really must try it!

Ray Bradbury I heard you at the Fillmore, heard you at Winterland, I heard you with Bob Dylan, I heard you with the Band. You took a load off Annie, you took a load off me.
(Christopher Lamora, Guatemala City)

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Jack Klugman For years you entertained us by annoying Felix Unger; But all things pass (and you, alas, weren’t getting any younger).
With neatnik vs. total slob, will either one convert? I guess you get the last laugh, ’cause you’re I guess you get the last laugh, ’cause you’re

Antisa Khvichava She claimed to be one hundred thirty-two (It’s hard to tell if that was really true), But thanks to luck, good health and proper genes, She’d pass for someone in her hundred-teens! (Robert Schecter)

Helen Gurley Brown To her magazine readers she wanted to show That it’s fun and fulfilling to act like a ho. (Mark Ruffman, Reston)