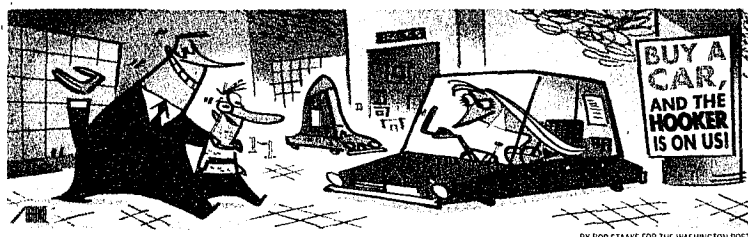


The Style Invitational

Week XCVI: Shark Instruments

Sign that the Ford Motor Co. has jumped the shark.



BY BOB STANK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

This week's contest was suggested by James Hertsch of Springfield, who points out that a new term has entered the American lexicon: "Jumping the shark" is based upon the disgraceful turning-point episode of "Happy Days" in which the Fonzy was required to water ski over a shark while wearing his leather jacket. Jumping the shark refers to the moment at which you realize a TV show—or anything else for that matter—has just passed its prime and is on its way to oblivion. (Many fine examples can be found on jumptheshark.com.) This Week's Contest: Tell us what would be a sign that any current institution—TV show, newspaper feature, magazine, business, etc.—has jumped the shark. First Prize winner gets a genuine Backstreet Boys throw pillow and an original Rubber Ducky.

First runner-up wins the tacky but estimable Style Invitational Loser Pen. Other runners-up win the coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable mentions get the mildly sought-after Style Invitational bumper sticker. Send your entries via fax to 202-334-4312, or by e-mail to losers@washpost.com. U.S. mail entries have been canceled due to rabid, spit-flying fanaticism. Deadline is Monday, Dec. 3. All entries must include the week number of the contest and your name, postal address and telephone number.

E-mail entries must include the week number in the subject field. Contests will be judged on the basis of humor and originality. All entries become the property of The Washington Post. Entries may be edited for taste or content. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. The revised title for next week's contest is by Howard Walderman of Columbia.

REPORT FROM WEEK XCII,

in which we asked you to make a new word from any two hyphenated words in that day's Post, and supply a new definition.

- ◆ Fourth Runner-Up—**Ridicu-plexly**: How 16 movie theaters are squeezed into one little corner of a mall. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)
- ◆ Third Runner-Up—**Zero-handed**: A Saudi recidivist. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)
- ◆ Second Runner-Up—**.45-baked**: Not even half-baked. (Mel Loftus, Holmen, Wis.)
- ◆ First Runner-Up—**Circum-tember**: The ad campaign that mohel "Crazy Shmuel" Weinstein launches each fall: "It's Circum-tember, and I'm SLASHING prices!" (Thomas Wallick, Washington)
- ◆ And the winner of the battery-powered Mr. Potato Head—**Mo-ronto**: 1. The Lone Ranger's mentally challenged companion; 2. Home of Prime Minister Jean Cr  tin. (Chris Doyle, Burke)

◆ Honorable Mentions:
Art-meets-Steve: Not that there's anything wrong with that. (Dave Zarrow, Herndon)

◆ **Assassi-sassination**: Termination with extreme trash-talking. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

◆ **Battery-up**: What you'd get if the Bronx were down. (Russell Beland, Springfield)

◆ **Be-bate**: Hamlet's soliloquy. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

◆ **Bra-night**: The baseball season's most popular promotion. (Chris Doyle, Burke)

◆ **Breed-vantage**: Some guys seem to think it's a sports car or a toupee. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

◆ **Bull-nary**: When this bird sings, you damn well better listen. (James A. Noble, Lexington Park, Md.)

◆ **Christo-joy**: Wrapture. (Chris Doyle, Burke)

◆ **Corn-ard**: Cruise line based in Kansas (now defunct). (M. Lilly Welsh, Oakton)

◆ **Du-phia**: A female doofus. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

◆ **Ef-pox**: Syphilis. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

◆ **Eventu-ments**: Clothes you keep in the closet in hopes that one day you can fit in them again. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

◆ **Ex-and-breakfast**: A fling with an old boyfriend. (Sue Lin Chong, Washington)

◆ **Feel-ueAmerica.com**: Bill Clinton's Web site. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

◆ **Fur-sical**: What you get when your cat rubs against your ice-cream-on-a-stick. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

◆ **Gal-crease**: Cleavage. (Bill Strider, Gaithersburg)

◆ **Integri-gested**: Swallowed pride. (Kelli Midgley-Biggs, Columbia)

◆ **Jew-gro**: To the Klan, the worst possible human. (Stu Solomon, Springfield)

◆ **Limp-solve**: Along with Rise & Shine, Upstart and Morning Glory, one of the many rejected names for Viagra. (Andrea D. Connell, Arlington)

◆ **Loudspeak-dependence**: Inability of the &@#% in the next cubicle to conduct business without yelling. (John R. Junker, Manassas)

◆ **Mary-pus**: A clue that one should avoid Mary. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

◆ **Mo-ist**: Member of a Three Stooges cult. (Dave Zarrow, Herndon)

◆ **Non-kini**: Even better than a bikini. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

◆ **Opera-cide**: It's REALLY over when the fat lady sings. (Paul Stygar, Sterling)

◆ **Paul-profit**: Made by robbing Peter. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

◆ **Prim-stantly**: The speed with which a good girl brings her knees together. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

◆ **Pound-wheel-drive**: A commute on the Beltway. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

◆ **Real-lection**: When the guy with the most votes wins. (A. Gore, Carthage, Tenn., via Kelli Midgley-Biggs, Columbia)

◆ **Re-thing**: What the surgeons did to John Bobbitt. (Sandra Hull, Arlington)

◆ **Sin-mantic**: Defining "evil" to suit one's own agenda. (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

◆ **South-minute**: About an hour longer than a New York minute. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

◆ **Strug-temporary**: When your voice squeaks for a moment. (Jennifer Hart, Arlington)

◆ **Suck-second**: The measure of time needed to assess the networks' fall schedule. (Mary Lou French, Lorton)

◆ **Suck-settes**: The tape clearance bin at Tower Records. (James Pierce, Charlottesville)

◆ **Survi-denfreude**: The pleasure of seeing someone voted out of the tribe. (Sandra Hull, Arlington)

◆ **Ter-ruary**: September. (Tom Witte, Gaithersburg)

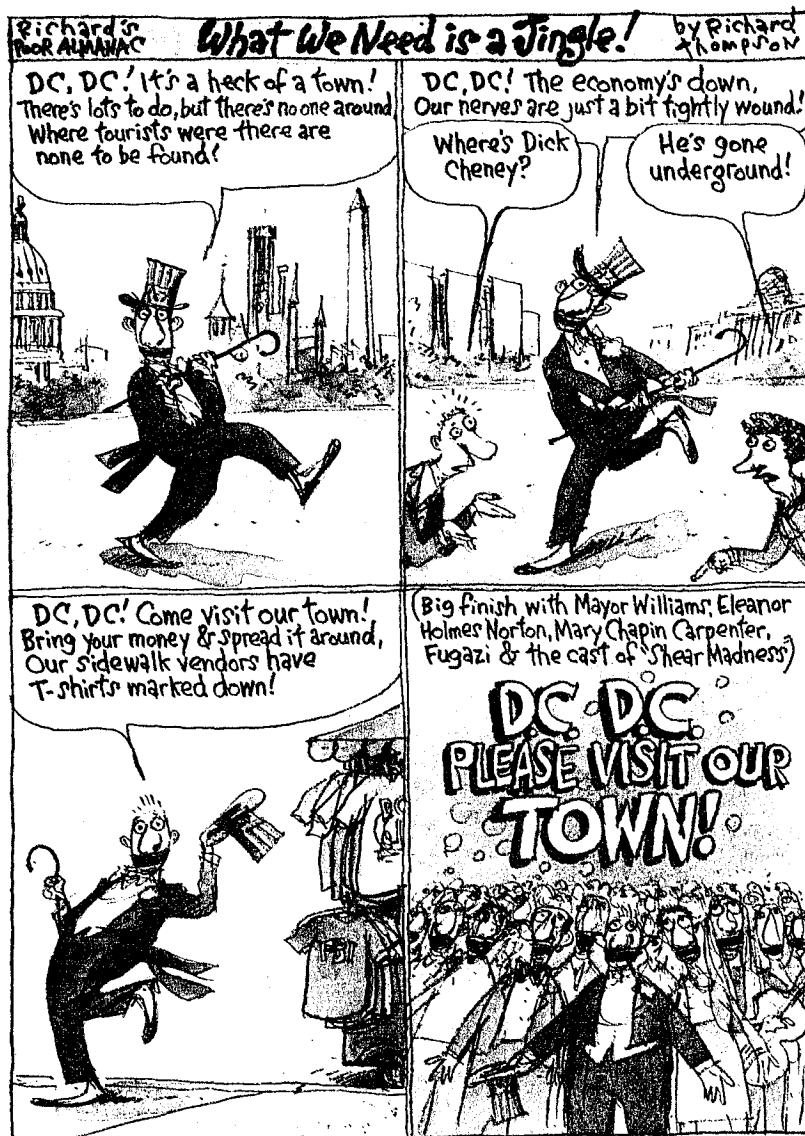
◆ **27,341,274,866-a**: The room you've reached by the time you've realized that your dentist's office is at the OTHER end of the building. (Sayuri Stemp, Fairfax)

◆ **Ventrilo-wind**: Passing your gas off on someone else. (Steve Fahey, Kensington)

◆ **Weak-diss**: An ineffective insult, like "Your mother wears Nikes." (Chris Doyle, Burke)

◆ **Whatever-ing**: Apathy. (Kelli Midgley-Biggs, Columbia)

Next Week: A Picture's Worse Dozen Words



Datebook

Holiday Fun And Fetes

By ROBIN CROOM
Special to The Washington Post

Nov. 30 (continued)

The benefit preview party of the 32nd Audubon Holiday Fair is at Woodend, the headquarters of the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, in Chevy Chase. The evening offers food, music and a private sale of arts and crafts. Tickets: \$35 at the door; \$30 in advance; \$10 for children ages 2-11; free for children under 2. Call 301-652-9188, Ext. 10.

The "Night of Trees" auction gala of Special Olympics, District of Columbia, is at the Omni Shoreham. More than 250 items—including decorated trees—will be auctioned. Music by Express, and an open bar and a buffet are offered. Tickets: \$100. Call 202-544-7770.

Dec. 1

The Washington Chamber Symphony's Holiday Sing-along and Holiday Tea begin with the sing-along in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall followed by the tea at the Finnish Embassy. Tickets: \$118 for VIP concert seats and the tea; \$85 for single tickets to the tea, and \$12-\$37.50 for single tickets to the sing-along. Call 202-452-1321.

The first Willie Stargell Living Legacy Award, in honor of the late baseball player, will be presented to Stargell's wife, Margaret Weller-Stargell, at the American Kidney Fund's 30th-anniversary "Hall of Fame" gala at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Tickets: \$175. Call 301-984-6654.

Dec. 3

Join Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan and a host of local officials at "Kaleidoscope," the 16th annual County Executive's Ball at Indian Spring Country Club in Silver Spring. This year the event will benefit the Arts and Humanities Consortium of Montgomery County and local victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. Tickets: \$75 (\$85 at the door). Call 301-215-7227.

Dec. 5

The Black & White Gala, the Friends of the National Zoo's fundraiser at the Marriott Wardman Park, celebrates the first anniversary of the arrival of giant pandas Mei Xiang and Tian Tian at the Smithsonian National Zoo. The event benefits the zoo's revitalization program. The Capitol Steps comedy troupe will perform. Tickets: \$250. Call 202-673-4682.

Dec. 6

The National Education Association and the NEA

Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE) will announce the recipient of their inaugural \$25,000 award for teaching excellence at NFIE's seventh annual Salute to Excellence in Education gala at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. Fred Rogers, creator of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," will present the award and receive the NEA Foundation Award for Outstanding Service to Public Education. Tickets: \$250. Call 202-822-7837.

Dec. 7

"A Capital Gala: Swing Into the Holiday Season," the Junior League of Washington's dinner and silent auction in celebration of the league's holiday shops, is at the Marriott Wardman Park. The evening, which also offers dancing to Doc Scantlin and His Imperial Palms Orchestra and shopping, benefits Washington literacy projects and volunteer service programs in greater Washington. Tickets: \$125. Call 202-337-2001, Ext. 22.

Dec. 9

"Once We Grow Up," a French film, will premiere at the closing night of the 12th Washington Jewish Film Festival at the Lincoln Theatre. A reception follows. French director Renaud Cohen will attend. Tickets: \$20. Call 202-777-3248 for information; 800-494-TIXS for tickets.

Dec. 10

"A Celebration of Light," the Choral Arts Society of Washington's 21st annual holiday concert and benefit, begins with the concert at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall and is followed by a dinner-dance at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel. Benefit ticket prices start at \$425. Call 202-244-3669, Ext. 20.

Dec. 13

The Young Benefactors of the Smithsonian's ninth annual Jolly Holiday Celebration at the Smithsonian Castle features music selections by deejay Matt Fulgham. Tickets: \$45 (\$35 for Young Benefactors members). Call 202-357-3030.

Dec. 16

Nutcracker Tea Party, a benefit for the Washington Ballet, offers a performance of "The Nutcracker" at the Warner Theatre, followed by a tea party at the Willard-Intercontinental. Tickets: \$125. Call 202-362-3606, Ext. 135.

The Beall-Dawson House's Holiday Fete features Clare Cavicchi, author of the soon-to-be-released "Places From the Past: The Tradition of Gardez Bien in Montgomery County," who will sign copies of her book. Tickets: \$8. Call 301-340-2825.

Dec. 27

The Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association's 2002 Snow Ball, for the benefit of the Boys and Girls Clubs, offers a viewing of the 2002 Washington Auto Show at the Washington Convention Center and festivities at the Ritz-Carlton. Tickets: \$225. Call 202-237-7200.

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