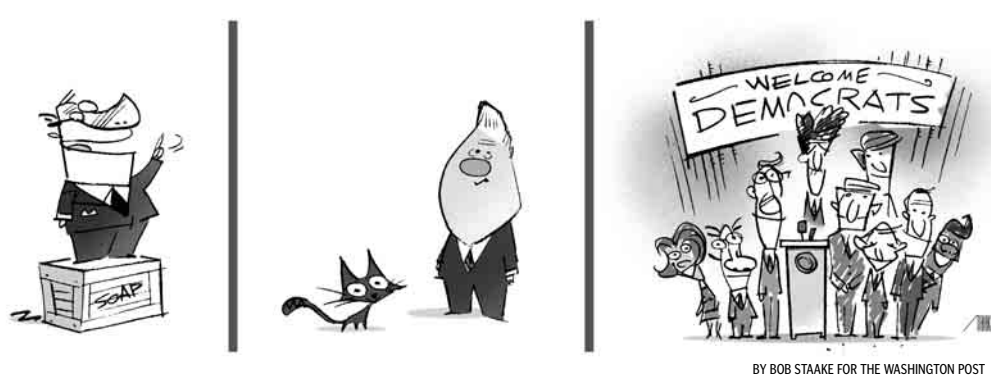


# The Style Invitational

Week 530: Tri Harder



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## Democrat

**Democrate: The political soapbox**

**Democrat: Socks**

**Democrat: How do they get nine great candidates on that itty-bitty stage?**

**This Week's Contest** was suggested by Kenneth S. Gallant of Little Rock. It's a new wrinkle on an old contest: Take any word, alter it three ways—by adding a letter, by subtracting a letter and by changing a letter—and redefine all three new words, as in the example above. Entries must consist of all three variations. First-prize winner gets a key chain carved from the seed of an illala palm tree that has passed through the digestive tract of an elephant. It was donated to The Style Invitational by Robin Diallo of Malawi.

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](mailto:losers@washpost.com). U.S. mail entries are no longer accepted. Deadline is Monday, Nov. 10. 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. Results will be published in four weeks. 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 Mike Genz of La Plata.

**Report from Week 526**, in which you were asked to rewrite one of four famous observations. Many people pointed out that the *real* root of evil is "yfel," from Old English. We also need to note that two readers came up with what, indisputably, are the "real saddest words." We will not share them with you, however. They are too sad.

◆ Second Runner-Up: **Love of money is NOT the root of all evil. This is a falsehood perpetrated by that left-wing radical element that would deny all capitalistic rewards for hard-earned genius. The real root of all evil is . . . (for the answer to this truly intriguing question, please send \$25 and SASE to Don Burdett, Alexandria, Va.)** (Don Burdett, Alexandria)

◆ First Runner-Up: **The real root of all evil is intolerance and xenophobia, particularly as practiced by foreigners.** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

◆ And the winner of the "Armpit of America" T-shirt from Battle Mountain, Nev.: **Genius is not 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration. It is 41 percent flour, 21 percent sugar, 10.00041 percent water, 10 percent corn syrup, 9 percent hydrogenated oil from canola, soybean or beef fat, 1.2 percent diacin, 0.8 percent ferrous sulfate, 0.71 percent mononitrate, 0.4 percent riboflavin, 0.21 percent dextrose, 0.02 percent modified food starch, 0.019 percent sodium acid pyrophosphate, 0.0021 percent lecithin, .00006 percent polysorbate 60, .000009 percent dextrin, .0000002 percent calcium caseinate, and that, my friend, is the Twinkie.** (Art Grinath, Takoma Park)

### ◆ Honorable Mentions

*They say that the saddest words are "what might have been." Nah. What are the real saddest words?*

**"And now, in our feature in-flight presentation, Robin Williams and the Olsen twins star in a four-hour exploration of the healing power of love and soul-cleansing laughter, and of the ultimate triumph of the human spirit . . ."** (Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

**"You look so young in that picture!"** (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

**"Dad, ah juth ga ma tongue piertht."** (Chris Doyle, Forsyth, Mo.)

**"Restrooms for customers only."** (Paul Kocak, Syracuse, N.Y.)

**"As you can see on the X-ray . . ."** (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

**"NOW do you believe in God, Mr. Dead Guy?"** (Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)

*What this country needs more than a 5-cent cigar:*

**Lasagna-flavored dental floss.** (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

**A singable national anthem.** (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg, Pa.)

**A retroactive VCR.** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

**A 5-cent co-payment for seeing an out-of-network physician.** (William Spencer, Exeter, N.H.)

**What this country really needs is a reason to go to war in the Middle East. Oh, wait, no we don't . . .** (Jim Reed, Wales, Wis.)

**An answer to the question "What does this country really need?"** (Elliott Schiff, Allentown, Pa.)

*The real root of all evil: The athletic shoe manufacturers' cartel.* (Howard Walderman, Columbia)

**LET's go, YAN-kees. (clap-clap, clap-clap-clap.)** (Tom Restivo, Frederick)

**Moral absolutism. Absolutely.** (Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

**Well, the square root of 666 is 25.82.** (Dave Michaels, Silver Spring)

*Edison said genius was 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration. What is a better formula?*

**One percent inspiration and 99 percent graduate assistants slaving away in indentured servitude.** (Chris Lafferty, Leesburg)

**Genius is 50 percent genes and 33 percent us. I am the rest.** (Michael J. Simon, Gaithersburg)

**One percent inspiration and, like, a billionty-kazillion percent exaggeration.** (Baylen Linnekin, Washington)

**A gentleman's genius is 1 percent inspiration and 73 percent perspiration. (George W. Bush, Washington)** (Danny Bravman, Potomac)

**Ninety-five percent attention to detail, and 6 percent not being a total Nazi about it.** (Milo Sauer, Fairfax)

**One percent pandering and 99 percent unquestioning allegiance to The Style Invitational.** (Robin Colaninno, Takoma Park)

Next Week: **Famous Laugh Words**

## BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Both sides vulnerable

NORTH (D)  
 ♠ 8 7  
 ♥ K Q J  
 ♦ K 10 8 4  
 ♣ Q 7 5 2

WEST EAST  
 ♠ K Q 6 5 ♠ A 10 4 3 2  
 ♥ 6 ♥ 10 9 5 3  
 ♦ 9 6 3 2 ♦ J  
 ♣ A 10 9 4 ♣ J 6 3

SOUTH  
 ♠ J 9  
 ♥ A 8 7 4 2  
 ♦ A Q 7 5  
 ♣ K 8

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

Zia Mahmood, the charismatic Pakistani now living in America, was the hero in today's deal, from the final of the prestigious Spingold Teams at the ACBL Summer Championships.

North's bid of two clubs was a gadget that showed a heart fit and near-opening values.

At both tables of the match, West led the king and then a low spade. East took the ace and could have prevailed by shifting to the jack of diamonds but instead adopted a line of defense that seemed promising.

East led a third spade, threatening South's trump holding. South couldn't afford to pitch a loser and ruff in dummy with an honor. Then East's trumps would be worth a trick.

So both Souths ruffed in their hand. At one table, South next took the K-Q of trumps. When West dis-

carded, South tried for the club trick he needed by leading to his king, but West took the ace and led a fourth spade. No matter what declarer ruffed, East was sure to get a trump trick. Down one.

In the replay, Zia as South inferred from East's defense that the trumps were breaking badly.

Looking far ahead, Zia led the eight of clubs at the fourth trick—through West.

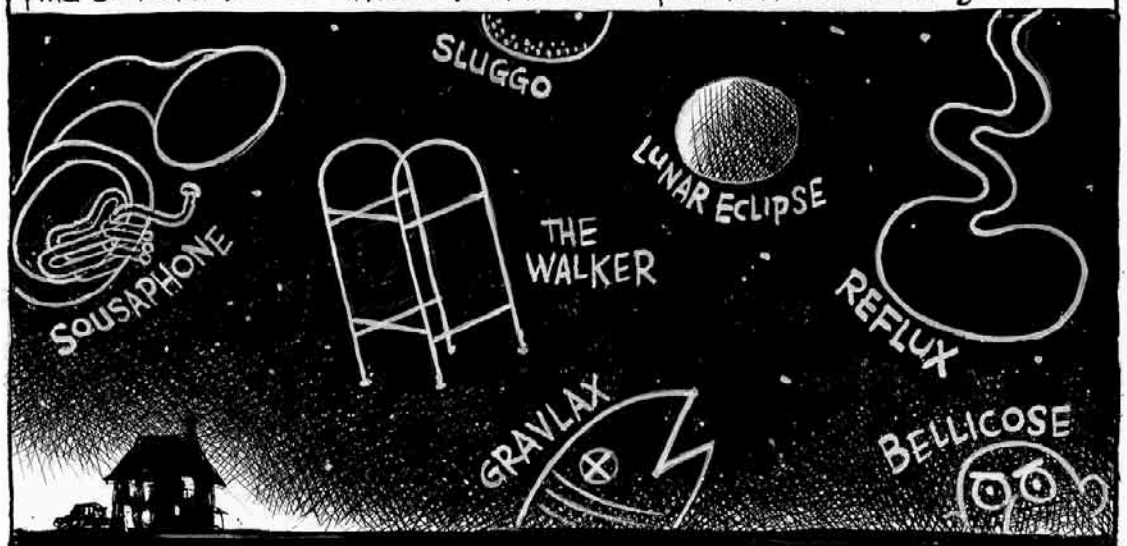
If West had been following his partner's defense, he'd have grabbed the ace to lead another spade. But West played low, and after dummy's queen won, Zia could draw trumps and claim 10 tricks. Well done!

The deal helped Zia's multinational team (Roy Welland, Bjorn Fallenius, Michael Rosenberg, Cezary Balicki, Adam Zmudzinski) to the Spingold title.

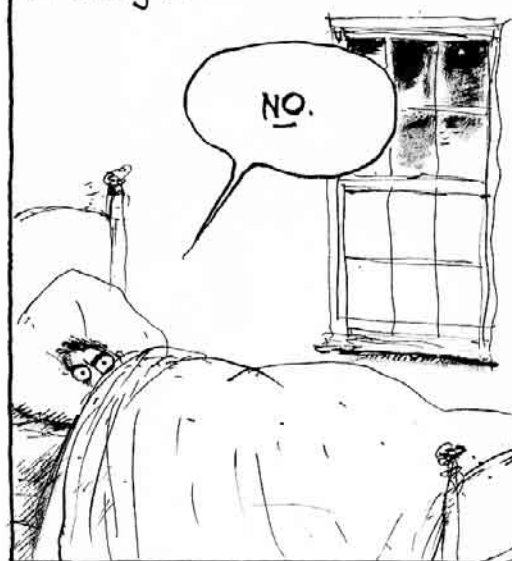
© 2003, Tribune Media Services

## Richard's Poor Almanac + NOVEMBER SKYWATCH by Richard Thompson

The November sky is chock full of fascinating objects & phenomena sure to delight even the most finicky stargazer. It is, really, I swear! Just look at all those constellations 'n' stuff! That one looks like a tuba, kind of, doesn't it? And on November 8<sup>th</sup> there'll be a lunar eclipse! That'll be fun, right?



On November 19<sup>th</sup> the Leonid meteor shower will peak at 2:28 a.m. and it'll be so cool! All those meteors going woosh across the what, you're just going to lie there? C'mon, get up, you're missing it!



On November 27<sup>th</sup> the Underdog balloon from the Macy's parade, accidentally released by inept balloon handlers, will soar across the night sky & be attacked by an angry flock of Canadian geese. The resulting explosion of feathers & scraps of Underdog will be clearly visible.



## DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby:

A close friend of mine—I'll call her Jane—is a thief. (She is 15 and I am 14.) Although her thefts are small, I know that petty thefts can turn into big ones.

Jane steals food from snack machines at school and loose change and small bills from people's purses in town. When I tell her to stop because it's wrong, her reply is, "I can't help it—it's in my blood. I won't take anything big."

My biggest fear is that Jane WILL steal bigger stuff, because when I first noticed her taking change, it happened maybe once a month. Then it increased to once a week. Now it happens every day.

I care about Jane. She's sweet and funny. But I don't know how to get her to stop. How can I help her? Should I tell someone?

Please help, Abby.

*Scared and Helpless*

If you are present when Jane steals, you become an accessory to the crime. For your own sake, as well as hers, tell your parents. They should alert Jane's parents to the fact that their daughter has a serious problem. Also, until she overcomes her compulsion to steal, it is vital that you limit your contact with her. As it stands, she is jeopardizing not only her own reputation and future, but yours as well.

Dear Abby:

My parents died in a car crash when I was a

little boy. I am now 14 and live with my grandfather and "Uncle Paul." My grandfather isn't able to work, so Uncle Paul is the only breadwinner in our home.

The problem is, when Uncle Paul gets drunk, he physically attacks my grandfather and me.

I love my grandfather and don't like to see him hurt.

But I don't want us to end up on the street, either. What can I do to make my uncle be nice to us?

*Black and Blue in Virginia*

Your uncle's drinking is out of control. What you have described is both elder abuse and child abuse.

You can get help, but only if you get into the social services system. One way to do that would be to tell a trusted teacher or counselor at school what is going on.

Do it now. Please don't wait until your uncle loses control to the point that he seriously injures you or your grandfather. Please do not be afraid that you will be "out on the street." Your grandfather may qualify for a small pension, and you should be eligible for public assistance.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

© 2003, Universal Press Syndicate

## TODAY'S HOROSCOPE | Jeraldine Saunders

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

You're in an expressive mood, and others realize what a caring friend you can be. The cosmic influences are such that by tonight, you both entertain and inspire with your mood.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

Feeling threatened and acting out of fear is not your way. Exchange uncertainty, reverse your mood and dust off your doubts. Home is the scene of action today.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

Usually solid and reliable, you leave little to chance. Friends and neighbors appreciate your honesty and dependability. Don't try to impress them with out-of-the-ordinary ideas.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

Check your footwear this morning. You may be running before you can walk. Keep to safe ground and avoid arguments that could fly in your direction.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

The moon moving into your sign this lunchtime sees you making last-minute changes. A secret or something you have hidden will be revealed.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

Looking at the nuts and bolts of a joint project, you may have notions different from others and you have to explain your take. Make sure others are as committed as you are.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

The needs of a loved one take priority. Your willingness to sacrifice time and attention may have limits as others, demanding your assistance, cut into your time.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

Someone looks to you for inspiration as you're a fountain of ideas. Risk-taking is not for you at present. But doing the same chores again and again is what you find soul-destroying.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

Breaking with tradition, you introduce new ideas, which receive applause. Though some around you are resistant, you respect their views. It's a breakthrough of sorts.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

Day-to-day considerations may lead you to streamline your budget, which arouses opposition. Let sleeping dogs lie. The afternoon brings a surprise.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

A partner or loved one is waiting for you to spill the beans. The relationship is not as exciting as it could be. To live things up, use a little artfulness, and benefits come sooner or later.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

The magic touch you've been applying pays off. You didn't waste your time after all. Friends and partners are convinced. You're an inspiration to all.

**IF NOV. 2 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** You are unconventional and enigmatic; others can find you difficult to read at times. You're family-conscious, and your home is your castle. Your emotions tend to swing up and down. Cooking, gardening, architecture and acting are just a few of your many interests. This is a year for completion, with love blooming in February-March.

© 2003, Tribune Media Services