

SOCIETY ESCAPES MARTINSBURG WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT; UNFUNDED LIABILITY PROBED

Gov. Caperton Sends Regrets; Sen. Rockefeller Sends Surveillance Team
Arnold/Zarrow and Witte Entertain; First In-Person by Coyner and Haduch
Families and Friends Push Headcount to 20 While They Express Relief at Lack of Excessive Anti-Social Behavior, Although Regulars Blame Heat

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Well, we knew it would come to this. Actually, we shouldn't be quite so reluctant to discuss this, as many of you have asked specifically what is required to keep the good work going.

If you will indulge us, a few words of explanation to those who have joined us since October, as well as the 50 or so mystified people to whom the next article will have been addressed: we began collecting data for the rankings in January of 1994, back when we didn't know anyone. Issue 1 of Volume I of this preposterous oeuvre was a set of rudimentary stats and a half-dozen headline-style summaries, mailed weekly to three people on our own initiative and purely as a diversion.

The monthly breakfasts grew out of that, and as we picked up attendees we refined the stats and increased the complexity of the accompanying commentary. As the breakfasts grew in popularity and the infection spread to e-mail, it became clear that we had enough untapped talent out there to support a monthly publication of radically different nature and scope. Our original nerdy Sunday-afternoon hobby didn't recognize itself anymore.

Many of you have been kind enough to contribute supplies, stamps, and canned vegetables unasked, but we do believe the time has come to take a somewhat more businesslike approach. We are prepared to make a commitment to continue this publication, and have spent a lot of time over the last two months figuring out how to get it out without sacrificing the last shreds of the life we had before the advent of the Invitational. We think an annual subscription fee of US\$15 is about right.

OK, we said it--was that so hard? If you



send us that pittance, we will send you approximately 10 pages of this annoying claptrap on the third Sunday of each month. Please note: if you have recently sent us a sizable quantity of stamps, and we know who you are, you may consider yourself paid up to that extent.

Please keep in mind that this is still a collaborative enterprise. We earnestly solicit Letters to the Editor, questions for Dr. Style, Top-10 entries, samples of your squandered brilliance for Wit Happens, and ideas for future issues, and as always we thank you for your support.

NOTICE TO NON-SUBSCRIBERS

This publication is for the aid and comfort of anyone who has had the least bit of success in the *Washington Post's* Style Invitational. It could also be described as the official organ of the Not Ready for the Algonquin Roundtable Society, a loose and purely fraternal organization whose members meet monthly over breakfast to whine to each other about how the capricious the Czar has been lately.

If you reply to the Publisher, she will send you the August and September issues for your use, misuse, and abuse. She will then attempt in her gentlemanly way to extract a year's subscription out of you. The obvious loophole in this is that you could then start submitting your stuff to the Invitational under a new name in hopes that we will think you're just another fresh face (the Invitational averages 10 new victims per Week), and that we'll send you three more free copies.

Good idea! Not terribly original, but still good. If you think you can do it, please try, and let us know how it comes out!

(Send your name, address, and telephone numbers to: Publisher, *Depravda*, 327 Montgomery St., Laurel, Md. 20707; or call Grace Fuller at 301-317-6839; or send e-mail to arthur@clark.net, Subject: *Depravda*.)

"You're the kind of guy who would look good and feel good in a Loser T-shirt." -- David Letterman to Jay Thomas, June 9, 1995.

LETTERS TO THE AUDITOR

I have been asked by the Editor, who is himself apparently too cowardly to do so when he has a similar belief, to state for the record that I believe my Similes Outrageous are as good and diverse a set of entries as I have sent in in a long time. Being of sound mind and body, or at least being able to make sounds with my body, I realize that I am opening myself up to either humiliation on the scale of Geraldo Rivera or triumph on the scale of Babe Ruth, although I retain the right to use the excuse that my entries never really arrived because of simultaneous failure of the postal service, the Post's fax, and the Internet, or that the Czar changed the conditions of the contest (e.g. only ran bad similes that actually appeared elsewhere in print).

Joseph Romm, Washington

ΔΔΔΔΔ

I found Mary Lee Fox Roe's letter [June 1995] interesting. She sent in \$45.00 because she was number 45 on the list. Is my fair share \$0.00 since I am below the cut? Does Mary Lee get a \$13.00 refund since she moved up 13 places?

J. F. Martin, Falls Church

We are a little confused by your letter—"below the cut"? We direct your attention to page 6 of the current issue. You have been on the list since that terrible night you suggested Marion Barry ask Gov. Caperton if he had two tens for a five! Who did you think that "Martin" down there at #76 was? Billy? Dean? Chief Brody from *Jaws*? That's you, bub—now pay up.

ΔΔΔΔΔ

It was with great surprise that I spotted a letter by NRARS member Paul Alter in the July '95 *Stereophile*. Could you come up with a *Readers' Digest* version of the letter and explain the salient points he was trying to make? Why won't this NRARS co-founder spend as much time on the Style Invitational contests as he does on letters to such obscure magazines?

Captain Subwoofer

It's gotta be the same guy—we'd bet money on it if we had any. And no, we don't really wanna do it up *Readers' Digest*-style, not since we figured out that that magazine was sort of, well, lame, not to put too fine a point on it. However, we include below, for everyone's enlightenment, some excerpts from the letter in question:

"when Stokowski wanted to ... he could thereby pack it ... the WC ... done in secret ... these 16-



inches, many of which were worn out ... full-width Hill-and-Dale groove [sic: we think he meant "full-length Chippendales groove"] ... bombed ... Anybody? Please? I love to ..."

What is even more disturbing, beyond the twisted cry for help that clearly comes through, is the unmistakable implication that Mr. Alter has obtained a life, or perhaps rediscovered an old one, since he stopped coming to the breakfasts. We publically call on him to appear at the August fête and explain this weird behavior.

Kindly address your concerns c/o The Publisher by letter, fax, e-mail, telephone, courier, or personal visit.

TOP TEN WAYS TO TELL THE CZAR HAS GONE NUTS

Donates his own ear for the best entry for The Ear No One Reads. (Mike Hammer)

Changes the disclaimer to "Employees of the Washington Post and their immediate families are cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs." (Joe Romm)

Instead of "humor and originality," the emphasis shifts to "taste and texture." (Paul Kondis)

Next Week will be asking for contest entries that use only the space bar, the Enter key, and the backspace key. (Mike Hammer)

Shows up at a breakfast and insists the NRARS become an a *cappella* glee club. (Paul Kondis)

Says he can't come in to work anymore because the Bolsheviks have shot him. (Elden Carnahan)

Runs a contest to come up with a humorous sequel to *Sophie's Choice*. (Joe Romm)

He's moved to Woodbridge. (Dave Zarrow)

Decides to go to law school at night. (Sue Lin Chong)

Fills up Page F2 with:

All Work And No Play Makes Jack A
All Work And No Play Makes Jack A
y All Work And No Play Makes Jack
oy All Work And No Play Makes Jack
(Joe "The Little House" Romm)

For August, send us something for:
"Top Ten Ways To Really Tick Off The Invitational Staff."

THE WHINE

by Dr. Style

GARDEN

[WARNING: Dr. Style is not a real Doctor, but does like to play doctor occasionally.]



Dear Abby, dear Abby, my life is a mess. My stomach makes noises whenever I kiss.
-- Mr. Chandler

Dear Sir or Madam: No doubt you have an unconscious fear that intimacy will lead to heartburn, which is perfectly natural since it inevitably does, either because of the pain of breaking up, the pain of eating your mate's cooking or both sequentially in reverse order. Eating a whole clove of garlic prior to kissing will eliminate the problem one way or another. Once you are completely cured, you should consider counseling. As Jung said, "Find me a healthy person and I will cure him for you."

PEYTON'S COYNER



UPON DISCOVERY OF THEIR TRUE IDENTITY, THE WEST VIRGINIANS TREATED WITTE, SMITH AND THRING TO A "HAITI HOIST".

Dear Dr. Style:

I thoroughly enjoy reading and entering the S.I., but like many members am not able to attend every breakfast. I'm sure I am not alone in wondering what the top winners look like. Could you describe them? Be as specific, intimate, and graphic as possible.
-- JSH

Dear JSH: Sadly, the top winners never show up, just a bunch of Losers. The best description of them, however, is if you've ever been watching the bar scene from Star Wars and they suddenly superimpose any scene from Night of the Living Dead. The breakfast itself is a lot like the baked-bean dinner scene from Blazing Saddles, superimposed on the scene from Alien where John Hurt is really, really hungry and then kind of explodes. By the way, given the fact that you don't want to socialize yet are remarkably nosy, I'm sure you are terribly, terribly alone. Get some friends or get professional counseling or both.

Got a personal problem? Oh, wait, we know, you have this "friend" who has a problem. Or maybe you have a question that Acherbach, Levey, or Miss Manners bungled in a most comical way. Well, then, just send it in to Dr. Style, c/o The Publisher, and we'll see that it's sorted right out for you.

Editor's Note: We thought it would be at least six issues before Mr. Peyton Coyner pushed us to the wall, but he actually did it in three. We didn't know what to do--we didn't want to stifle the mad genius, but we just couldn't run it as was. We tried to drown ourselves five times last week in the mighty Lower Yough so we wouldn't have to make this decision. However, in the interim we have met Mr. Coyner in person, and he did not appear stifled in any way, and in fact had some further suggestions, when we told him what we intended to do with our X-acto knife.

NRARS Meets the Ghost of Ed Sullivan

by Stephen Dudzik, strategically edited by Sue Lin Chong

Receiving two tickets for the taping of "The Late Show with David Letterman" can make the most hardcore NRARSer stop coveting three, four, or five F2 mentions on a given Sunday (well, momentarily). For *Depravda's* second travel story, here's what it's like to hear the Top Ten List up close and personal.

The journey began in Newark, N.J., gateway to New York City, via the PATH train that deposited Sue Lin and me at the World Trade Center. A cursory search for lurking blind sheiks yielded nothing, and we began the morning with a trip to St. Mark's Place in the East Village. First stop was the office of the *Asian Pacific American Journal*, which published one of Sue Lin's short stories in its spring/summer issue. Several hundred dollars later, Sue Lin felt she had purchased enough copies and coincidentally finished her Christmas shopping. I had suddenly gained twenty pounds of post-consumer wastepaper to carry through Manhattan. As a consolation, I was promised an autographed copy.

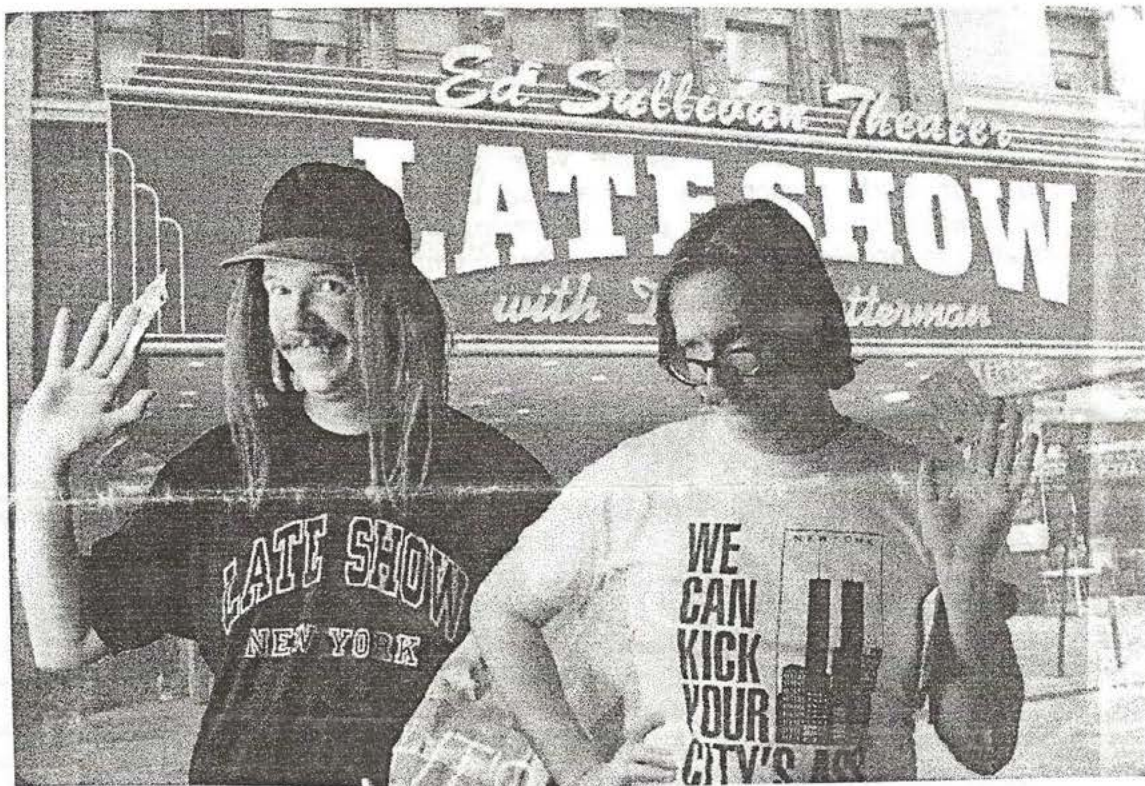
Because "The Late Show" is a 5:30-to-6:30 live-to-tape format for airing on the same evening, we headed toward Times Square around 3 p.m. After our tickets were numbered by a courteous CBS page, we toured the block to pay homage to "Late Show" landmarks. Stage manager Bif Henderson and crew were on 53rd St. filming the b-roll/filler tape sequences for the night's big stunt: a race between an off-duty NYC cab driver and Indy 500 winner Jacques Villeneuve. We then visited Hello Deli and bought drinks from owner and sometime Letterman pal Rupert Gee. Mujibar and Sirajul, sadly, were not at Rock America, but were on a promo trip for "The Late Show." As fate would have it, they were in D.C. that day.

At 4 p.m., the line formed for the numbered ticket holders and we duly assumed the position there, killing time by writing rude postcards to lucky NRARS members. Finally the doors opened around 5 p.m. and we were ushered to our seats, stage right, about 15 rows back.

As a public service to NRARS members, here are the top tips and points of information about the "big she-ew" itself:

- How do you get a really great seat so you can be captured on camera? Probably by getting your ticket numbered around 2 p.m.—our numbers were 165 and 166, and while we had great sightlines of the stage and Dave at his desk, we were too far back to have my LOSER T-shirt immortalized on television.
- Is the theater freezing inside? Moderately so, but permafrost rarely forms on living body parts, we were told. Wearing long sleeves or a light sweater is recommended (but read on for important advice). One of the great Late Show jokes is having the audience wait briefly inside the theater where it's really, really hot, then move them into a space that's really, really cold. By the time you're seated and have found the closest monitor, you're in the early stages of encephalitis.

(continued on page 5)



- ▷ How does the crew get the audience "in the mood?" There's a comic/audience-applause shill who starts out with a routine. His act was followed by a "Late Show" video clip of Siskel and Ebert going house-to-house with Dave in New Jersey. Next came a number by the CBS Orchestra and then Dave himself popped out for a measly 40 seconds or so at 5:28 p.m.

Once the show starts, the excitement of live television does kick in and the hour flies by. That night's Top Ten list featured Sen. Dole's complaints about Hollywood, and the big gag was having Richard Simmons burst onto the stage after #1 was read ("that freaky Richard Simmons"). Alas, our seats were not near the aisle that Richard pranced up and Dave ran up during that segment. Remaining acts were the aforementioned cab race, with the cabbie outmaneuvering Villeneuve and receiving a brand-new beaded car seat as his prize, David Brenner with a long description about the birth of his son and the experience of getting a cab (Mr. Brenner: your agent has canceled your gig before the India Tourism Bureau), and musician Chris Isaak's performing from his new CD.

Perhaps the most interesting aspects are the timing and the decisions from the producer, Bob Morton, the control room, and the stagehands who make the show appear seamless and lively. We witnessed the most important function of Dave's executive assistant--bringing him a new mug of hot coffee during every commercial break and cavorting with the cameraman in time to the music. Also, Dave voraciously jumps on those \$10 cigars at every off-camera opportunity.

At exactly 6:30, the show was over and we left the Ed Sullivan Theater entertained, slightly star-struck, and yes, in need of a moist towelette. Luck was with us that day, as the car had not been stolen from the Newark parking lot, and we headed back to D.C. The Big Apple is no West Virginia, but it was still a thrill to us simple folk.

(Note: tickets to the Late Show are free. Send a postcard to The Late Show, The Ed Sullivan Theater, 1697 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019. Be prepared to wait anywhere from a few months to nearly a year for your two tickets. Children under 16 are not admitted to the show.)

THE MARCH OF SOPHISTRY

25, 50, and 100 Weeks Ago in the Style Invitational

Report from Week 94, Weeks 1-93, "in which you were asked to submit entries to any previous contest ... the most appalling and shameless entry received this week was from Sarah Worcester of Bowie, who, thinking she could curry favor with the Czar of the Style Invitational and win a T-shirt, knit him a sweater. It has a rat motif ..."

- ◇ Honorable Mention: Dividing the world into two kinds of people: "There are people who are respectful of their fellow human beings, and then you have all the other scum-sucking pus-wads." (Kevin Mellema, Falls Church)

Report from Week 69, Laying Down the Law, "in which you were asked to come up with sequels to Murphy's Law. As often happens when a contest seeks new variations on old themes, you bombarded us with plagiarism. ... This is our last benign warning to all you Steal Invitationalists. Next time, we Act ..."

- ◇ First Runner-Up--J. Calvin Smith's Observation on Entropy: There is no un-fan for the ca-ca to un-hit. (J. Calvin Smith, Laurel)
- ◇ Honorable Mention: "The First Law of Government: An executive agency in motion tends to remain at rest." (Bruce Ramsay, Gaithersburg)

Report from Week 18 [that is 100 Weeks ago, dagnabit: you don't have to tell us how annoying that missing Week is, you're not trying to do the stats--Ed.], Punch Us In The Ear, "in which you were asked to stick it in our 'ear' by proposing a front-page motto for The Washington Post ..."

- ◇ Seventh Runner-Up--"A Newspaper With A Proud Tradition of Journalistic Ex-
See MOTTO, A32, Col. 2 (Meg Sullivan, Potomac)
- ◇ Honorable Mention -- "Do Not Flush Plastic Wrapper" (Debut of Linda K. Malcolm, Silver Spring)

F2 BRUTES

This list includes all Invitational participants who have appeared in print at least four times, as of the Report from Week 119.

Key to Column Headings

Rk Chg: Change in rank since last issue.

Debu Wk: Week of first print appearance.

Total Credits: Printed entries. Shared win yields partial credit.

W/L Streak: If positive, consecutive Weeks of print appearances. If negative, consecutive Weeks shut out.

Consstncy: Credits divided by total Weeks since debut (no Week 64). & Rank: Order of names if sorted by value.

Slugging: Weighted Credits: 4 points for Win, 3 for Contest Idea, 2 for Runner-Up, 1 for Honorable Mention. & Rank: Order of names if sorted by this value.

Purity: percentage of Total Credits not attributed to Honorable Mentions. & Rank: Order of names if sorted by this value.

NRARS names on Page F2,

compared to all names appearing

Week 116: 30% (9 of 30); Week 117: 53% (16 of 30); Week 118: 31% (12 of 39); Week 119: 50% (19 of 38)

New names on P. F2,

compared to all names appearing

Week 116: 33% (10 of 30); Week 117: 17% (5 of 30); Week 118: 44% (17 of 39); Week 119: 45% (17 of 38)

Longest Streaks Broken

Week 116: Fraind, -62; Week 117: Bryce, -40; Week 118: Chaney, -76; Week 119: Kirschenbauer, -73

Introducing:

- #1113: Jim Ward, McLean
- #1114: Ted Spencer, Washington
- #1115: Phil Plait, Silver Spring
- #1116: Aaron Goldschmidt, Fairfax
- #1117: Brent Weaver, District Heights
- #1118: Andrea Lowery, Washington
- #1119: Ariele Revots, Bethesda
- #1120: David Swerdloff, Washington
- #1121: Edith Lund, Alexandria
- #1122: Gene Van Pelt, Verona, Va.
- #1123: Andy Buonviri, Hollywood, Md.
- #1124: Ed O'Reilly, Alexandria
- #1125: Doris Nachman, Springfield
- #1126: R. A. Heindl, Euclid, Ohio
- #1127: Laura Wilson, Herndon
- #1128: Joe Harder, Charlottesville
- #1129: Julie Thomas, Vienna
- #1130: Will Cramer, Vienna
- #1131: Robert Starling, McLean
- #1132: Barbara Dykes, Mason Neck
- #1133: Gerald Epstein, Bethesda
- #1134: Rick Tillman, Falls Church
- #1135: Michele Petrillo, Gaithersburg
- #1136: Paul Parsons, Silver Spring
- #1137: Donna DeSoto, Fairfax
- #1138: Steve Hoglund, Washington
- #1139: Connie Petty, Leonardtown
- #1140: Andrew Flannery, Washington
- #1141: Jonathan Simon, Bethesda
- #1142: Howard Tenenbaum, Silver Spring
- #1143: Susan Wilkerson, Arlington

#1144: Tina Ament, #1145: Marcia Doran, #1146: Greg Gust, #1147: Moe Hammond, #1148: Skip Flegnaut, #1149: Ted Hudson, #1150: Anne Levy, #1151: Janice Hall, #1152: James Foster, #1153: Sylvia Byrne, #1154: Andrew Culhane, #1155: Sarah Bardos, #1156: Clark Kidd, #1157: Kathryn Kidd, #1158: Heather Jamieson

Rk	Chg	Name	City	St	Wk	Total	Credits	W/L	Strk	Consstncy	Slugging	Purity
1		Smith, C. 178	Woodbridge	VA	6	175.00		+4	1.549	1	242.33	1 0.293
2		Carnahan 09.5	Laurel	MD	22	106.50		+3	1.098	2	143.50	2 0.207
3		Romm 68.33	Washington	DC	58	59.33		+1	0.973	3	89.83	3 0.287
4		Witte 56	Gaithersburg	MD	7	50.50		-2	0.451	7	67.50	4 0.257
5		Krattemaker 45.83	Landover Hls	MD	80	38.83		+1	0.971	4	43.33	9 0.116
6		Kondis 37	Alexandria	VA	14	36.00		+1	0.343	13	50.50	5 0.236
7		Thring 34.5	Leesburg	VA	23	33.50		-2	0.349	12	44.50	8 0.269
8		Hart 35.33	Arlington	VA	11	32.33		-3	0.299	15	42.33	10 0.217
9		+1 Grove 30.5	Washington	DC	6	29.50		+1	0.261	17	34.50	14 0.169
10		-2 Worcester 38	Bowie	MD	46	29.00		-4	0.397	11	45.00	7 0.414
11		-2 Mellema 29.5	Falls Church	VA	10	29.00		-6	0.266	16	38.00	11 0.241
12		+2 Dudzik 31	Silver Sprng	MD	7	27.00		+1	0.241	21	36.00	12 0.259
13		-1 Gearty	Washington	DC	16	26.50		-55	0.257	18	45.50	6 0.377
14		+3 Beland 34.83	Springfield	VA	73	26.33		+1	0.560	5	31.83	19 0.209
15		-2 Smith, J. C.	Laurel	MD	60	26.00		-9	0.441	9	34.00	15 0.308
16		-1 Malcolm 28	Silver Sprng	MD	18	25.00		+1	0.248	20	35.50	13 0.340
17		-1 Styrene 25.58	Olney	MD	17	24.08		+1	0.236	22	32.83	17 0.197
18		Sullivan 15	Potomac	MD	14	23.00		+1	0.219	24	28.00	21 0.217
19		+1 Caron 21.5	Lenoir	NC	11	21.00		+1	0.194	30	31.00	20 0.333
20		-1 King	Alexandria	VA	16	20.50		-32	0.199	28	33.50	16 0.341
21		+1 Sorensen 20.5	Herndon	VA	75	20.00		-2	0.444	8	26.50	22 0.300
22		+4 Kammer 20.5	Herndon	VA	71	19.50		-1	0.398	10	21.50	30 0.103
23		-2 Segal	Vienna	VA	4	19.50		-22	0.170	35	32.50	18 0.462
24		-1 Rooney	Rstn/Blcksbg	VA	16	17.83		-41	0.173	34	23.83	26 0.168
25		-1 Zane	Woodbridge	VA	3	17.00		-84	0.147	38	22.00	29 0.176
26		-1 Zarrow 20.83	Herndon	VA	30	16.83		-6	0.189	31	26.16	25 0.317
27		+1 Coyner	Afton	VA	26	16.75		-2	0.180	32	26.50	23 0.284
28		-1 Alter, P.	Hyattsville	MD	41	16.50		-17	0.212	26	22.50	28 0.242
29		+1 Chong	Washington	DC	35	16.50		-2	0.196	29	19.50	33 0.182
30		-1 Sabourin 17.25	Silver Sprng	MD	17	16.25		+1	0.159	36	23.25	27 0.308
31		+5 Patishnock	Laurel 14.5	MD	26	13.50		-1	0.145	39	20.50	32 0.444
32		-1 Weisse	Sykesville	MD	6	13.00		-12	0.115	45	14.00	39 0.077
33		-1 Fox Roe	Mt. Kisko	NY	13	12.50		-6	0.118	44	15.50	37 0.240
34		+3 Pannullo 12	Chevy Chase	MD	84	11.50		-5	0.319	14	16.00	35 0.391
35		-2 Maclean	Burke	VA	44	11.50		-12	0.153	37	13.50	41 0.174
36		+4 Arnold 12	Herndon	VA	72	11.00		-1	0.229	23	19.00	34 0.273
37		+7 Richardson	Laurel	MD	14	11.00		-3	0.105	48	13.00	44 0.182
38		-4 Cuddihy 13.83	Fairfax	VA	13	10.83		-16	0.102	49	11.83	47 0.046
39		-4 Olson, D.	Laurel	MD	14	10.67		-55	0.102	50	13.01	43 0.126
40		+2 Smith, J. P.	Washington	DC	60	10.33		-3	0.175	33	13.33	42 0.097
41		+2 Thuermer 11.73	Washington	DC	14	10.00		-3	0.095	55	26.50	24 0.800
42		-3 Steinhice	Washington	DC	74	9.83		-1	0.214	25	21.33	31 0.661
43		-2 Olson, M.	Springfield	VA	38	9.00		28	0.111	47	10.00	52 0.111
44		+5 Robbins	Bethesda	MD	5	9.00		-2	0.079	61	16.00	36 0.444
45		Gilbert	La Plata	MD	57	8.50		-34	0.137	41	9.00	55 0.059
46		Hammer 9.5	Washington	DC	5	8.50		-4	0.075	64	12.50	45 0.353
47		+3 Dierman	Potomac	MD	2	8.33		-1	0.071	68	15.33	38 0.480
48		-1 Walsh	Rockville	MD	57	8.00		-55	0.058	52	10.00	53 0.250
49		-7 Weinstein	McLean	VA	24	8.00		-4	0.084	59	14.00	40 0.250
50		-2 Miller	Rockville	MD	13	8.00		-73	0.075	65	8.00	58 0.000
51		Williams	Alexandria	VA	51	7.67		-28	0.113	46	9.67	54 0.261
52		+5 Verrey	Arlington	VA	15	7.50		+1	0.072	67	9.00	56 0.200
53		-1 Drucker, J.	Arlington	VA	5	7.17		-6	0.063	70	10.67	51 0.209
54		+8 Grinath	Takoma Park	MD	106	7.00		-2	0.500	6	8.00	60 0.143
55		-2 Dawson, F.	Beltsville	MD	47	7.00		-4	0.097	54	8.00	59 0.143
56		-2 Cushing	Washington	DC	36	7.00		-44	0.084	60	7.00	67 0.000
57		-2 Rabin	Fredericksbg	VA	29	7.00		-17	0.078	62	11.00	48 0.571
58		-2 Wenger	Montgry Vlg	MD	2	7.00		-36	0.060	72	12.00	46 0.429
59		-1 Delduke	Bethesda	MD	14	6.50		-21	0.062	71	8.00	61 0.231
60		-1 Meyer	Alexandria	VA	38	6.00		-54	0.074	66	11.00	49 0.500
61		-1 Layman	Silver Sprng	MD	1	6.00		-35	0.051	77	8.00	62 0.333
62		-1 Reagan	Reston	VA	3	5.50		-23	0.047	79	6.50	74 0.182
63		Adams	Laurel	MD	84	5.00		-17	0.139	40	11.00	50 0.600
64		Gordon	Potomac	MD	65	5.00		-42	0.091	56	5.00	76 0.000
65		Day	Gaithersburg	MD	16	5.00		-45	0.049	78	7.00	69 0.400
66		Kovalak	Springfield	VA	9	5.00		-78	0.045	80	7.00	68 0.400
67		von Behren	Washington	DC	5	5.00		-8	0.044	82	8.00	63 0.600
68		Breon	Columbia	MD	86	4.50		-13	0.132	43	5.00	77 0.111
69		Hinders	Fredericksbg	VA	55	4.50		-17	0.070	69	7.00	70 0.333
70		Drucker, G.	Arlington	VA	7	4.17		-6	0.037	85	4.67	86 0.120
71		Dawson, G.	Arlington	VA	104	4.00		-9	0.250	19	5.00	83 0.250
72		Mangin	Silver Sprng	MD	101	4.00		-9	0.211	27	7.00	72 0.750
73		Pohl	Rockville	MD	90	4.00		-14	0.133	42	9.00	57 0.750
74		Whittington	Washington	DC	80	4.00		-30	0.100	51	5.00	84 0.250
75		Holland	Bluemont	VA	79	4.00		-40	0.098	53	5.00	78 0.250
76		Martin	Falls Church	VA	74	4.00		-16	0.087	57	7.00	73 0.250
77		Hurst	Germantown	MD	73	4.00		-37	0.085	58	6.00	75 0.500
78		Boyle	Annapolis	MD	69	4.00		-50	0.078	63	5.00	79 0.250
79		Alter, B.	Springfield	VA	47	4.00		-45	0.056	74	4.00	88 0.000
80		Riley	Woodbridge	VA	48	4.00		-26	0.056	73	7.00	71 0.750
81		Shettel	Rockville	MD	46	4.00		-54	0.055	75	4.00	89 0.000
82		Stack	Arlington	VA	44	4.00		-37	0.053	76	4.00	91 0.000
83		Smith, P.	Fairfax Sta.	VA	30	4.00		-39	0.045	81	5.00	80 0.250
84		Christopher	Springfield	VA	25	4.00		-37	0.043	83	5.00	81 0.250
85		Bross 7	Chevy Chase	MD	24	4.00		-44	0.042	84	8.00	64 0.500
86		Mitchell	Washington	DC	5	4.00		-38	0.035	86	4.00	87 0.000
87		Mantle	Darnestown	MD	5	4.00		-6	0.035	87	4.00	90 0.000
88		Star	Rockville	MD	5	4.00		-113	0.035	88	5.00	85 0.250
89		Ories	Arlington	VA	2	4.00		-105	0.034	89	5.00	82 0.250
90		Oslo	Alexandria	VA	2	4.00		-112	0.034	90	8.00	66 0.500
91		Fisher	Rockville	MD	1	4.00		-108	0.034	91	8.00	65 1.000

CONSOLIDATED RESULTS, POETIC CONTESTS

	Week 12 Here, Doggerel...	Week 47 Can You Do Verse?	Week 79 Terror-Dactyl	Week 104 Here, Doggerel.	Week 116 Write Pure Poetry
Czar's Commentary	"The results...were pretty pathetic... You all had tin ears...rhymes that gave us a headache."		"You turned out to be a battalion of doofs with a frankly astounding facility for literary arcana."	"We stopped counting at 9,000 entries. More than 500 persons submitted the highly original idea that the Style Invitational should at long last 'Chuck' Smith."	"If you are a mature human being being this column may not be your particular cup of pee."
Winner	Nguyen	Paulkovich	Thuermer	Steinhice	Hart
The Prize	Twitching rubber rat caught in a trap	Grotesquely ornate Valentine's Day bouquet	Fabulous one-slice toaster	Bill Clinton statuette	Costume of a huge-breasted, hippo-hipped woman
1st Runner-Up	Dunleavy	F. Dawson	Gaillard	Bee	Goldschmidt
2nd Runner-Up	Black	Malcolm	Kammer	Ross	Plait
3rd Runner-Up	Straub	Dierman	Doyle	Zarrow	Richardson
4th Runner-Up			B. Holland		Spencer
5th Runner-Up					Sorensen
Honorable Mentions	Mendez Black	B. Alter (2) Carnahan (2) M. Olson Grove	B. Holland (3) Gallagher Uri Gibbs Gionfriddo Pemantle Purdum Howland Hart Lieblich Hoffman Wartik	Manuel Stone Millstein Leyes G. Dawson M. Holland Green/ Weisse Patishnock D. Smith Hart (2) Zarrow (2) C. Smith Carnahan Fahey Jenkins Dean Lesko Witte S. Krattenmaker	Hart (4) Weaver Styrene/Beland/ J. P. Smith Lowery Beland Revots Swerdloff Lund Patishnock Thuermer Arnold Plait D. Smith (2) Richardson C. Smith

"There are probably 25 other people who are just as funny as I am--I think I just entered the contest a little bit earlier than they did." So said Chuck Smith to the hosts of "Broadcast House" in a segment first aired last winter. Well, maybe, maybe not, we think, although it was damned sporting of Chuck to say so. There is really only one way to tell, so we will now run some supplemental rankings, in which everyone is zeroed out at the dawn of each new contest year.

We list all persons who have reached 4 credits in Year 3, Weeks 105 through 119. The columns are as follows:

Year 3, Credits: total times in print, Year 3.

Year 3, Conss: total credits divided by the 15 Weeks so far of Year 3.

Year 1, Credits: total print appearances in Year 1 (Weeks 1 through 52).

Year 1, Rk: ranking you finished Year 1 with.

Year 2 Credits and Rk: as above, for Year 2 (Weeks 53 through 104).

Top Yr Best: amount of credits you must earn each Week to improve on your best Year.

Take Title: amount of credits you must earn each Week to finish #1 in Year 3.



Rk	Name	Year 3 Crdts	Year 3 Conss	Year 1 Crdts	Year 1 Rk	Year 2 Crdts	Year 2 Rk	Top Yr Best	Take Title
1	Carnahan	18.50	1.233	19.00	3	69.00	2	1.365	1.233
2	Romm	17.00	1.133			42.33	3	0.686	1.280
3	Smith, C.	16.33	1.089	75.33	1	83.33	1	1.811	1.298
4	Beland	12.83	0.855			13.50	11	0.018	1.393
5	Hart	11.00	0.733	3.33		18.00	8	0.189	1.442
6	Kammer	8.50	0.567			11.00	18	0.068	1.510
	Witte	8.50	0.567	13.00	11	29.00	5	0.554	1.510
	Sorensen	8.50	0.567			11.50	17	0.081	1.510
9	Pannullo	8.00	0.533			3.50		-0.122	1.523
10	Krattenmaker	7.33	0.489			31.50	4	0.653	1.542
11	Grinath	7.00	0.500						1.550
12	Arnold	6.00	0.400			5.00	33	-0.027	1.577
	Smith, J. C.	6.00	0.400			20.00	7	0.378	1.577
14	Zarrow	5.50	0.367	1.33		10.00	20	0.122	1.591
	Thuermer	5.50	0.367	3.50		1.00		-0.054	1.591
16	Chong	5.00	0.333	4.00	36	7.50	27	0.068	1.604
	Sullivan	5.00	0.333	14.00	8	4.00	47	0.243	1.604
	Fox Roe	5.00	0.333	5.50	28	2.00		0.014	1.604
	Mellema	5.00	0.333	8.00	21	16.00	10	0.297	1.604
20	Styrene	4.83	0.322	6.00	25	13.25	14	0.228	1.609
21	Grove	4.50	0.300	13.00	12	12.00	16	0.230	1.618
22	Weinstein	4.00	0.267	1.00		3.00		-0.027	1.632
	Caron	4.00	0.267	10.00	16	7.00	28	0.162	1.632
	Patishnock	4.00	0.267	7.50	22	2.00		0.095	1.632
	Worcester	4.00	0.267	3.00		22.00	6	0.486	1.632

ACADEMIA NUTS

What Virginia Tech professors have to say about the Style Invitational
by The Graduate

Dr. William Snizek, Department of Sociology

"My first reaction to this contest is that too many people have too much time on their hands," Snizek said, perhaps stating the obvious.

Contestants, he continued, are literary shut-ins. "I imagine these are the same people who flood other types of contests or giveaways, sending in entry blanks, coupons, etc." We, he said, are starved for some kind of feedback; it "brings order to an otherwise feeble existence."

Snizek also had interesting comments when told that (at interview time) only seven of the top 25 entrants were female. "Males are less integrated into the fabric of society," so they have more time to devote to the contest.

"It is a well-known fact," Snizek said, "that on a group basis men feel more isolated. Women have more companionship, so they don't need to enter. Men have both the time to enter and the sociological need to seek a connection through this."

It is the same reason, Snizek said, that men have a 2½-to-3 times higher suicide rate in the U.S. (helped, no doubt, by Week 98, Your Thievin' Art). I suppose it goes to follow that if any men stop entering the contest, they'll kill themselves shortly thereafter?

Drs. Daniel Axsom and Jack Finney, Department of Psychology

For this next part, I asked for comments on the behavior of particular people. First, I informed them that in Week 113, What Kind of Foal Am I?, Mary Lee Fox Roe sent in 502 entries alone, and had them read the five entries she had published.

"First," Axsom said, "she obviously has lots of time on her hands, maybe indicating she's a bit of a recluse. However, she's very smart, very computer-oriented. I can't see someone sending in 500 entries with just a typewriter."

Added Finney, "She also has a large affinity for animals--Yogi Bear, Bears Repeating, Crusader Rabbit. This suggests a tender side to her." Notwithstanding this tender side, Axsom said, "I'd bet she's single, not attached either. You can't submit that number of entries and be attached." Sorry, Mr. Roe.

Next I asked about reasons behind unsolicited criticisms from The Unnamed DJ. "Imus," Axsom said, "likes to think that he pushes the envelope--that he's daring. He might have felt like he needed to assert his dominance in this area, say he was more extreme" than the S.I.

While not familiar with Imus, Finney saw a similarity between Howard Stern and the Czar. "He makes comments to keep people writing in. Like Stern, he uses extreme positions to generate a response." Not quite a God complex, but perhaps a puppeteer, pulling strings to make things happen.

Lastly, I of course asked for possible reasons behind the actions of The Elusive One ["Ahem--all men will know [whom we] mean"--Norman Mailer, *The Armies of the Night*--Ed.], who (according to our editor) is listed on Page F2 as being from Maryland yet mails entries from a P.O. box in D.C., and rebuffs all efforts at communication.

Both professors agreed that he obviously prefers his identity to remain a secret (and it took 10 years of schooling for them to figure that out?). Axsom postulates that he is simply uncomfortable around others, "perhaps because of a socially-unfit childhood." He's probably busy--too busy to respond to letters, but not so busy that he doesn't enter.

Finney, meanwhile, suggests that The Elusive One may be a group of people [we bet The Graduate is too young to remember "Penelope Ashe"--Ed.], so therefore no one person could respond--it would spoil the illusion. "His entries seem to be quite different, ranging from the sophomoric to literary references." Of course, allows Finney, TEO may just be "incredibly introverted." We may never know.

Next month, *The Graduate* has it out with the Philosophy and English departments!



Artist's Conception,
based on scattered
reports

The Graduate has shifted his base of operations back inside the Beltway, and we hope he turns up at the August breakfast to cut into some turkey sausages before the same thing, sort of, is done to him.

WIT HAPPENS

Some Good Ones That Got Away, Or Missed The Deadline, Or Curry Got On Them, Or Something



Week 40, Not Wrong. Just Incorrect

Mike Thring: Citizen's Groups, Lobbying For Less Violence in Television, Try to Ban Classic Mr. Ed Line, "Well, Wilbur, Might As Well Hit the Hay Before I Eat It."

Week 95, How's That Again?

John Cushing: **Youth Locked Up In Cardozo Slaying**
A young man accidentally locked up in Cardozo High School over the Christmas vacation was reportedly killing everyone who attempted to free him . . .

Week 101,

Shirlee Weingarten: The Invisible Man's Mug Shot

Week 102, Help! I'm A Prisoner In This Contest

Jean Sorensen: Hey Loser, always eat by yourself?

Week 104, Here Doggerel

Peyton Coyner: Sharon Bottoms,
The lady who lost custody of her child because she is a lesbian, would still have had him had she not been
Sharin' bottoms.

Week 111, Ask Backward V

John Kammer: The Bridges of East Brunswick, N.J.: Upon seeing what landmark will a man seeking Golden Gate Park finally stop and ask directions?

Week 115, The Mnemonic Plague

Dave Zarrow: How to spell "mnemonic"
Manufacture Nifty Etymological Memorandum, Observe Name In Contest

Week 116, Write Pure Poetry

Fred Dawson: TELL OTTO: ZED DEFOE FELT DEE DEE O'DELL OFT PLOTTED TO FOOL PETE ZEPP TO PEDDLE LOOT TO DELFT TO TOPPLE OLD POPE LEOPOLD.

Week 119, Muzak To Our Ear

Paul Styrene: While on hold for the West Virginia Travel and Tourism Bureau: "We Are Family"
Markell West: Plastic surgeon's office: "Just The Way You Are"

DEPRADA

Subject: Depravda

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NEXT NRARS BREAKFAST

August 6, 9 A.M.

Hugo's Restaurant
Hyatt Arlington, 1325 Wilson Blvd.

Reservations Under "Chong"
Buffet For \$7.95, Free Parking Under Hotel

Open To All Style Invitational
Contestants, Admirers, Lurkers,
Skulkers, Stalkers, Support Staff,
Mutually-Dependent Co-Enablers,
Wannabes, Free-Loaders, and Guests

First-Time Visitors Kindly R.S.V.P. To
Publisher So Kammer Doesn't Have To
Sit In The Potted Palm Again

DEPRAVDA

The Official Mail Organ of the Not Ready for the Algonquin Roundtable Society

In This Issue:

Page 1: Martinsburg Round-Up.

We reach out to those not of the Body for the first time, and also put the bite on ourselves.

Page 2: Will it be Rivera or Ruth?; that terrible night; and an alert reader spots the curmudgeon.

A field guide to instability on 15th St. NW.

Page 3: Mercifully, no ad hominem, except sort of generally.

Crucifigi sumus.

Page 4: Losers find dinosaur pellets and throw a rabbi off--hold on,
we edited that out.

Page 5: Seems like just yesterday, doesn't it?

Page 6: Total casualties tops 1150, more feared.

Page 7: Wanna see our iambic pentameter?

Starting over in Year 3.

Page 8: Losers strapped to the examining table way down South.

Page 9: Mr. Ed, Mexican wind, the smallest fly in the world, and old
Pope Leopold.



OUR FOUNDER

DEPRAVDA

