



Karen Anderson

## Didn't I see you at Green Lake park, running backwards, in flip-flops? (Five points for me)

*People-watching is a national pastime for many Americans. Now, Club columnist Karen Anderson is encouraging everyone to start keeping score. Grab a friend and come join the fun.*

Spring is here! That means it's time to throw open your front door, close your eyes (so you won't be distracted by all the garden projects that need your attention), and take a deep breath of fresh, slightly warm, air.

Energized? All right!

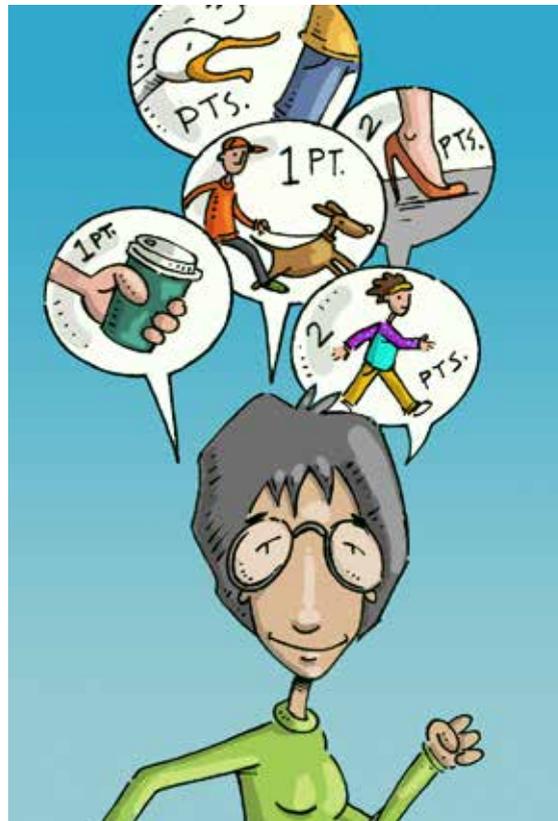
Now, put on your sneakers and head off to the nearest waterside park for an hour of walking. Call a friend and have them join you. Anything goes, from the formal practice of Nordic Walking with special fitness poles to shuffling along in sheepskin-lined flip-flops while slurping a take-out latte.

Walking is even more fun when you collect People Points. The Scholarly Gentleman and I developed the People game while walking around Green Lake, but you can collect People Points at Gasworks Park, Alki Beach, or even at the Arboretum.

You have one hour in which to collect 50 points for these sightings and encounters:

- Someone pushing a three-kid stroller (3 points)
- Two women loudly discussing the intimate details of a recent date (1 point)
- A man jogging while carrying a Starbucks cup (1 point)
- More than four people blocking the path while using their smart phones to photograph an eagle atop a nearby tree. (1 point on weekends; 3 points on weekdays)
- One person walking more than three dogs (3 points)
- Someone speaking a foreign language (1 point; 2 points if it's a language you can understand)

- Someone jogging in flip-flops (3 points)
- A 20-something walking along with an animal riding on his shoulder (1 point for a cat; 2 points for a ferret; 3 points for a bird. For a reptile, score 1 point for every foot of length when uncoiled.)
- Anyone walking a dog that weighs more than you do (1 points)
- A runaway child on bike, tricycle or roller skates, pursued by a parent (1 point)



- Someone skating, jogging, or running ... backwards (2 points)
- Someone wearing two pieces of fluorescent sportswear in clashing colors (2 points)
- Bicyclist weaving madly in and out of pedestrians (1 point; with a ferocious-looking dog racing alongside, 3 points)
- Anyone being followed or chased by a goose (3 points)
- Couple having a fight or obviously giving each other "the silent treatment" (1 point)
- Woman teetering along the pathway in spike heels (2 points)
- Someone from your old neighborhood who waves or smiles at you (2 points)
- Someone who stops to talk with you (4 points; but lose 3 points if you can't remember their name)

Walking with an out-of-town guest? Don't let that slow you down. Award a 5-point handicap for Tacoma, Bellingham or Portland; 10 points for San Francisco or Spokane; and 20 points for anyone who keeps whining, "But it looks like rain!"

Yes, Seattle is a small town, and it's filled with eccentric characters. You should be able to chalk up all your points in well under 45 minutes and still have time to stop for a celebratory coffee drink or a snack at a local food truck.

Bonus: If you overhear another group of walkers playing the People Game, stop and say hi. That's worth 10 points, plus one point for every pet, latte or stroller!