Have You Seen This Man?

Paul Coleman

To amuse myself, I recently spent a couple of evenings speculating about the physical appearance of the invisible Mr. Pynchon. Now, I know it’s not hip, or perhaps even polite, to want to know what he looks like. But on this occasion, I didn’t let that stop me. In the spirit of a parlor game, I made some sketches. They start with his high school yearbook photo and proceed at roughly ten-year intervals. They are pure speculation, of course, but if you meet such a man lingering around the “P” shelf at your local Waldenbooks, you might want to ask him a couple of leading questions.

Feel free to make additions or corrections. If he was Beat instead of Mod, add sunglasses and a black turtleneck. If he was Hippie rather than Disco, add beads and a ponytail. If he really does watch The Brady Bunch all the time, add a housecoat and slippers.

—Sandusky, Ohio