

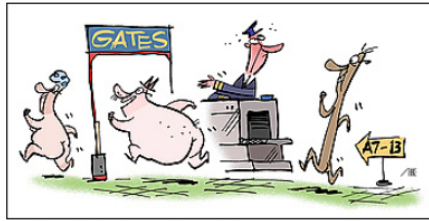
The Style Invitational

By the Empress

Week 747: Boing Us Silly

Saturday, January 5, 2008

The security line would go a whole lot faster without having to take off shoes, belts, pants, etc. Just leave them home.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

We delay our annual obit-poem contest (the subjects won't complain) in honor of today's week number, pointed out to us far in advance (independently) by Losers Russell Beland and Kevin

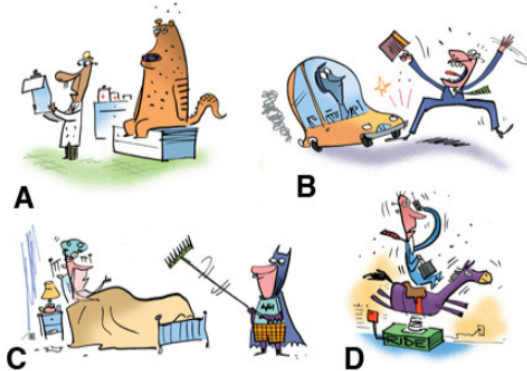
Dopart. While we're sure that most people find our nation's airline system utterly without flaw, perhaps one or two of you could dig down deep to find *something* that could use a wee bit of improvement. **This week: Suggest some comical ways to improve air travel, either in general or for yourself.**

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. First runner up gets a VHS tape of "Fisher-Price Little People Discovering Animals." The donor, 66-time Loser Andrew Hoenig, promises that as you watch the Little People characters "make exciting discoveries about their animal friends," you will make exciting discoveries about the limits of your own digestive system, as he did well before the 389th viewing.

Advertisement Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable Mentions (or whatever they're called that week) get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Magnets. One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to losers@washpost.com or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, Jan. 14. Put "Week 747" in the subject line of your e-mail, or it risks being ignored as spam. Include your name, postal address and phone number with your entry. Contests are 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 Feb. 2. 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 Kevin Dopart; this week's Honorable Mentions name was submitted by both Russ Taylor of Vienna and Rick Haynes of Potomac.

Report From Week 743

in which we sought captions for these cartoons by Bob Staake. Most people saw the ambiguous mammal in Cartoon A as some sort of feline, which made for many "cat scan" jokes. And many Losers noted that Cartoon D was someone's idea of a quarter horse.



4. **Cartoon B:** An early prototype of the auto shoe buffer left a lot to be desired (Jim Senft, Silver Spring)

3. **Cartoon D:** During his latest appearance, Mitt's staff called to remind him to appear Reaganesque, but that day he just felt Dukakish. (Larry Yungk, Arlington)

2. **the winner of the Darth Vader mask: Cartoon B:** No matter how many times she tried, Martha could never get the whole lawyer under her car. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

And the Winner of the Inker

Cartoon C: "Harvey, when I said I wanted something different in the bedroom, I was thinking new drapes." (Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.)

Close Captioning: Honorable Mentions

CARTOON A

"Hmmm, you look like something you might have dragged in." *(Kevin Dopart, Washington)*

"You have erect-tail dysfunction." *(Ned Bent, Oak Hill)*

"Mr. Hardy, a hyenal hernia is no laughing matter." *(Dave Zarrow, Herndon)*

"Your DNA shows that you're lion AND tiger AND bear. Oh my." *(Jeff Brechlin)*

"You do know that you're supposed to get inside the tank and not the other way around?" *(Bruce W. Alter, Fairfax Station)*

"Are you sure it was *human* growth hormone you injected, Mr. Bonds?" *(Steve Fahey, Kensington)*

"The X-ray shows the lady from Niger, all right, and she should pass naturally in two or three days -- but there won't be a smile on your face, I'll tell you that." *(Jeff Brechlin)*

CARTOON B

D.C. cabbies still prefer feet to meters. *(Kevin Dopart)*

Why car salesmen like to go along on the test drive. *(Russ Taylor, Vienna)*

He had a naturally wide stance. He was not gay. But just as the senator from Idaho said, George was in the wrong place at the wrong time. *(Bob Dalton, Arlington)*

Britney Spears accidentally increases the size of Al Gore's carbon footprint. *(Andrew Hoenig, Rockville)*

Connie missed parking perfectly by just a foot. *(J. Larry Schott, Gainesville, Fla.)*

Herbie's second cousin Melvin, the Hate Bug. *(Beth Baniszewski, Somerville, Mass.)*

Eventually, Barack learned to turn down rides to the debate with Hillary. *(Elwood Fitzner, Valley City, N.D.)*

How Metrobus drivers keep in practice. *(Kevin Dopart)*

Though it worked well, Joe always found it harder to break in the second shoe using this method. *(Larry Yungki)*

Bug Squashes Man *(Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)*

CARTOON C

"No, you idiot. I said I wanted some soup, a hero and a cake." *(Andrew Hoenig)*

"Don't threaten me, Bruce -- so what if I did borrow your tights!" *(Barbara Turner)*

Barbara and George Bush: The Secret Tapes *(Jean Sorensen, Herndon)*

"All right, already! I'll get the Brazilian wax!" *(Claire Center, Burtonsville)*

"So I'm your archenemy, the Dust Bunny, got it? And you can foil me only by pushing your special Bat Broom around all the floors to rid the house of my evil henchmen. Great. Meanwhile, I'm going back into suspended animation till 9." *(Brendan Beary, Great Mills)*

In the twilight of his career, Adam West tries in vain to turn over a new leaf. *(Russell Beland, Springfield)*

CARTOON D

The first-quarter results have been extremely favorable! *(Michael Mason, Fairfax)*

Check out YouTube for an old video of Mitt Romney going "varmint hunting." *(J. Larry Schott)*

Hank learned that for just 25 cents more, phone sex could be a whole lot better. *(Jeff Brechlin)*

Evel Knievel Jr.'s stunts never lived up to his father's legacy. *(J. Larry Schott)*

Due partially to its small budget, "Urban Cowboy II" was a flop. *(Chuck Smith, Woodbridge)*

"Sylvia, remember what you said about me and the horse I rode in on? Well, can you meet me right outside the Wal-Mart?" *(Chris Rollins, Cumberland, Md.)*

"Can you hold on a sec? I think my exit is coming up." *(Art Grinath, Takoma Park)*

Just a quarter in, and Ralph was already out of control on his wild ride. *(J. Larry Schott)*

Tom was forced to admit that, even at a quarter per ride, the ZipHorse concept made no sense. *(Horace LaBadie, Dunnellon, Fla.)*

Next Week: You OFD Us One. or The Define Comedy

