THIS WEEK'S CONTEST Week 747: Boeing Us Silly

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.

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

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)

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.)



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



The security line would go a whole lot faster if passengers didn't have to take off shoes, belts, pants. etc. Just leave them home.

e 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.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or 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.

CLOSE CAPTIONING: HONORABLE MENTIONS

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

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

"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

"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)

D.C. cabbies still prefer feet to meters. (Kevin

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 Britney Spears accidentally increases the size of

Al Gore's carbon footprint. (Andrew Hoenig,

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,

How Metrobus drivers keep in practice. (Kevin

Though it worked well, Joe always found it harder to break in the second shoe using this method.

Bug Squashes Man (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

"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

"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,

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

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

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,

"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,

"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 OED Us One, or The Define

Spears Loses Custody; Visits Suspended for Now

By Sandy Cohen

ANGELES, Jan. 4 — A court commissioner gave sole phys-

ical and legal custody of Britney Spears's two little boys Friday to suspended the troubled non star's

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Spears was hauled away from Jan. 14. her home to a hospital by paramedex-husband Kevin Federline and ics a day before, after police had to awarded temporary custody of 2intervene when she refused to return the children to Federline after a court-monitored visit.



Los Angeles Superior Court

Commissioner Scott Gordon ordered another hearing to be held

left a closed-door emergency hearing Friday afternoon. "There's no winners here." Federline was not in court for the hearing, Kaplan said. The 26-year-old pop star remained hospitalized Friday. Her latest troubles began around 8 p.m. Thursday when officers were called to her home to help resolve a dispute over her refusal to created by GREG ALLEN, THE NEO-FUTURISTS

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Federline previously had been vear-old Sean Preston and old Jayden James because Spears has defied court orders, resulting in limitations on her visitation.

"I'm not happy about any of these events," Federline's attorney, Mark Vincent Kaplan, said when he



Britney Spears arrives Thursday at L.A.'s Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

turn the children over to Federline, as dictated by their custody agree-

It took two to three hours to resolve the conflict, said Officer Ana

"There was a time where she was within the residence and wasn't available to be speaking to the officers, apparently," she said. "There was no threat to the chil-

"Police resolved the conflict," Aguirre said. "Both children were turned over to her ex-husband, Kevin Federline, for custody, and she was in fact taken to a local hospital for medical treatment."

Early police reports said officers thought Spears might have been under the influence of some substance, but Aguirre said there was no evidence of that.

Officers at the scene determined that paramedics "needed to be called," but it was unclear why, she said. "We're not aware of any type of injuries that she sustained" and she was not combative with authorities, according to Aguirre, who also said that Spears wasn't arrested in connection with the custody dispute.

Spears and Federline were married in October 2004. Her life has spiraled downward since their divorce in July. She has been photographed without underwear and appeared to be drunk and out of control in public. She shaved her head, beat a car with an umbrella and spent a month in rehab.

She had hoped to regain her pop crown with a much-hyped performance at MTV's Video Music Awards in September, but it was universally panned by fans and crit-

Still, Spears's latest album, "Blackout," earned positive reviews when it was released in October and brought Spears her first No. 1 hit in years, "Gimme More."

