

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

REPORT FROM WEEK 856

in which we sought titles of Books That Will Never Be Published for these covers by the otherwise successful children's-book author-illustrator Bob Staake: Bob himself chose the top five entries from the list of finalists that the Empress gave him.



(Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn)

Honorable mentions
"You Were Adopted, but You Weren't Our First Choice" (Beverly Sharp, Washington)

"Cindy and the Psilocybin": Cindy finds out too late what her teacher Mr. Leary meant by "class trip." (Miles D. Moore, Alexandria)

"The Rosy-Cheeked Sinner": Pat Robertson's guide to spotting Satan's minions. (Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

"Mother's Little Helper Finds Mother's Little Helpers" (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

"You're Just Losing Your Marbles: A Child's Guide to Psychosis" (Dudley Thompson, Cary, N.C.)

2 (Kevin Dopart, Washington)



Honorable mentions
"Little Big Mac": Young Mark discovers a special potion that lets him swing a bat that's twice his size! But will anyone notice that his head has blown up like a balloon? (Pam Sweeney, St. Paul, Minn.; Juan A. Perez, Springfield, a First Offender)

"Mother's Day": Timmy wants to surprise his mother with a new coat, so he's off on an incredible journey to the Arctic in search of baby seals. (Jeff Brechlin, Eagan, Minn.)

"Horton Hurts a Herndon Day Laborer": A boy helps keep foreigners from taking Daddy's job. (Kevin Dopart)

"Defending Mrs. Wilson": A little boy comes to the aid of his elderly next-door neighbor against her curmudgeonly husband. (Peter Metrinko, Gainesville, Va.)

"Lefty Saves the Day": In this book for kids who fret about being different, Lefty wins the game with the arm that grows out of his head. (Larry Carnahan, Arlington)

3 (Judith Cottrill, New York)



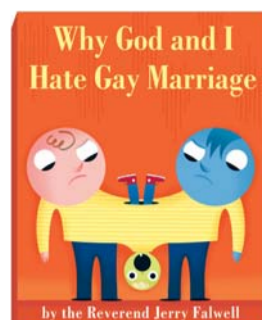
Honorable mentions
"Nanny, Get Your Gun" (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

"If You Don't Give a Girl a Cookie" (Judy Blanchard, Novi, Mich.)

"Little Miss Masochist: 101 Tips and Tricks for Getting Spanked in a Timeout World" (Dion Black, Washington)

"Jessica's Ritalin Adventure": No cap is childproof. (Craig Dykstra, Centerville)

4 Written in simple language for young children and the ignorant,



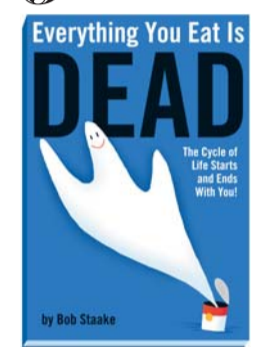
this book explains how a small child's world is turned literally upside down by gay marriage and parenthood. (Sheri L. Tardio, Prince Frederick, Md., a First Offender)

Honorable mentions
"Mommy AND Daddy Are Gay": Little Dobson's world is turned upside down when he learns he is the child of the first union of a conservative lesbian and a transgender libertarian. (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

"Jimmy Has Two Daddies and One's From Pandora" (Barbara Turner, Takoma Park)

"Can a Kindergartner Breathe Upside Down? Ten Nifty Science Experiments to Do at School" (Dudley Thompson)

5 (Kevin Dopart)



Honorable mentions
"Whoooo Knows the Number of Rat Parts in Chicken Soup?" (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

"Prince Albert's Revenge": Despite millions of concerned phone calls, Prince Albert was left to die in the can. Some say his

ghost haunts kitchens, checking to see if refrigerators are running. (Jeff Brechlin)

"Xylene the Friendly Sniffable Ghost: And Fun With His Volatile Organic Cousins" (Martin Bancroft, Rochester, N.Y.)

"The Klan in the Can: The White Tornado Tries to Take Back America" (Kevin Dopart, Dave Zarrow, Reston)

Next week: All FED up, or Redeem Your QPONS

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST: WEEK 860

Ten, Anyone?

Tiger Woods: World's greatest golfer. Plays a round and then plays around. Neil Armstrong: What a messy man — left footprints all over the moon.

For those who don't want to count to 140: There's a new Web site called Ten Word Wiki, where its founders, Englishmen Nathan Spong and Ben Morgan, are compiling a dictionary/encyclopedia "for the ADD generation" in which all the entries are exactly 10 words long, mordantly witty ones preferred. They're up past 4,000 entries. Let's help them out. Yours will be better.

This week: Humorously define or describe something or someone in exactly 10 words (hyphenated compound words are one word), as in the examples above lifted from the site. Check [www.tenwordwiki.com/All_Pages](http://www.tenwordwiki.com/) to make sure you don't duplicate what's already there. (You may use the same subject, but your entry must be substantially different to get ink here, and you might not be able to post it there.) Don't post your Invitational entries there until our results are published — if the Empress sees a definition there that's the same as the one you sent, it's toast.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets a DVD of an actual documentary called "Chick Flick: The Miracle Mike Story," which tells the incredible story of Mike the Headless Chicken, who toured the carnival circuits for 18 months after being decapitated.

Other runners-up win their choice of a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt or yearned-for Loser Mug. Honorable Mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational Loser Magnets. First Offenders get a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (Fir Stink for their First Ink). 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, March 22. Put "Week 860" 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 to be published April 10. 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 results is by Kevin Dopart. This week's contest was suggested by Brendan O'Byrne of Regina, Saskatchewan.



PR NEWSWIRE
 Apple's pre-orders were brisk on the first day, but some are ambivalent about buying the tablet computer.

Gobs bite at chance to order new Apple iPad

Neither recession nor gadget overload shall slow the mania surrounding the introduction of Apple's iPad mobile computer. On Friday, the first day that buyers could pre-order the device (it arrives in stores next month), Apple racked up an estimated 91,000 sales in just the first six hours of availability, putting temporarily to rest the Internet's persistent "iPad fail" meme. Analysts predict the first-year sales could reach 5 million. Still, despite the avalanche of pre-release hype (the media-tracking firm O'Leary Analytics found 25,000 news mentions of the then-unnamed product in January alone), Friday's pre-order mania was tempered by considerable ambivalence among the geeked-out on discussion boards and on Twitter. "Early adopters," scoffed a poster on Appleinsider.com about the early buyers. "I was all set to buy one this morning, but I guess cold feet set in overnight," read a post on TUAW.com (The Unofficial Apple Weblog). "I've decided to wait a while, maybe for the 2nd generation. Now I just have to see if I can hold out for the next gen

Online discussion Have a question for the Empress or want to talk to some real Losers? Join the Style Conversational at washpost.com/styleconversational.

BOOK COVERS BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

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A new NBC game show, emphasis on the gamy

TV PREVIEW FROM C1

innuendo counts: "Bite Me," "This Blows" and "Keep It Up," for example, and what a clever touch that is. Bud Collyer, host of the '50s version, sure would have blushed at those, although life was such in the '50s that people either would not have noticed the sexual references or would have pretended not to notice and looked the other way. Looking the other way, come to think of it, is easily the best way to experience "Minute to Win It."

The nimble and cute contestant seen on the segment made available for preview admittedly earns one's sympathy as she attempts to knock over plastic cups with the air from a balloon, wiggle a cookie from her forehead to her mouth without using her hands, lift paper bags with her teeth (that one looks absurdly easy), keep two feathers in the air by blowing on them and capture two large orange balls mounted on sticks while — get this — blindfolded! "Oh Lord, please help me!" the comely contestant cries out. "Awesome, awesome," shouts the show's host, cable TV cooking cutup Guy Fieri. His job is principally to mention the million-dollar jackpot as often as possible and to rev up the contestant, who then revs up the audience: "Give it up for her, folks!" and so on, Fieri shouts. "This is one of the most exciting competitions I've seen," Fieri exults after the bit with the feathers. Anybody that easily excited should seek appropriate



CHRIS HASTON/NBC

HAVING A BALL? The game show's contestant, yes. Most home viewers, unlikely.

medication. Before or after commercial breaks, the producers insert what are called "bumpers" — brief shots of anonymous folks attempting the stunts in their back yards. The common denominator among these is obvious: There's always a fat guy in the group, a-wigglin' and a-jigglin' in pursuit of cheap laughs. When will members of the Fat Community stop lending themselves to such shameless exploitation?

When the cows come back to Capistrano, that's when. shalest@washpost.com

MINUTE TO WIN IT (two hours) debuts Sunday at 7 p.m. on NBC.

"Going to wait until the [basic] version is in the wild to see how people really like it."

— Mash187, Twitter poster

iPhone. . . . Sometimes I think I should be going to gadgetolics anonymous meetings."

A Twitter poster named Mash187 offered: "Avoiding the rush to pre-order an iPad today. Going to wait until the [basic] version is in the wild to see how people really like it." Engadget.com asked its tech-savvy readers whether they planned to buy an iPad, which starts at \$499. The result: Nearly 19 percent of 60,000 respondents said yes; 65 percent were negative; and 16 percent clicked "What's an iPad?"

Enough with the iPad hype? We probably haven't seen anything yet. The product arrives in Apple stores April 3. Which can only mean one thing: TV reporters doing stand-ups in front of long lines of buyers camped out in front of the stores — including the untold numbers who'll be there just to appear on TV news reports about people camped out in front of Apple stores.

— Paul Farhi

DOONESBURY BY GARRY TRUDEAU

