

# The Style Invitational

## THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

### Week 678: Limerick Smackdown!

In the results below and in a special supplement on [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com), you will see 45 uncannily clever limericks, drawn from more than 1,000 submitted for Week 674. You will see several by Style Invitational Hall of Famers Chris Doyle and Brendan Beary, winners of our previous two limerick contests and also luminaries on the limerick Web site Oediff.com. What you won't see are the dozens and dozens of other limericks they sent in — a total of 43 from Beary and an even 100 from Doyle — of which almost every one is outstanding.

This week, for the first time, The Style Invitational's name will actually make sense: We have invited Chris and Brendan — and only Chris and Brendan — to go head to head in a series of 10 limericks with the restrictions listed below. The Empress will rule on the winner of each round (readers will be invited to vote for their three favorite limericks overall) and the winner of the most rounds will be, whatever, The Big Limerician. These guys certainly don't need any more Inkers. The limericks will be posted Oct. 1.

Their limericks, in turn, must:

1. Concern an obscure mammal.
2. Explain a scientific or philosophical concept.
3. Be a note from George Bush to Condoleezza Rice.
4. Contain the names of five body parts.
5. Have each line begin with a vowel.
6. Consist of directions on doing some task.
7. Include the word "nasopharyngeal."
8. Contain five consecutive words beginning with five consecutive letters of the alphabet.
9. Be about each other.
10. Be their favorite limerick submitted for the contest below that did not get ink.

All you other Losers out there, you get a week off. So just relax.



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

For the record, since there's no fine print this week, the Honorable Mentions name is by Kevin Dopart; next week's Revised Title is by Andrew Hoenig of Rockville.

#### REPORT FROM WEEK 674

in which we asked for limericks containing words beginning with **ca**, for eventual posting on Oediff.com, the Omnificent English Dictionary in Limerick Form. As noted above, there were many more worthy limericks than we have room to print here, so we're glad that those hundreds of verses won't be vanishing into the ether.

A rare Blind T-shirt goes to Jeff Brechlin of Eagan, Minn., who sent in a limerick extolling, in the first person, filial necrophilia. We can't print it here, but we will send a framed copy to Mr. Brechlin's mother. We also will garb Jane Auerbach of Los Angeles, who offered one that began: "I'll explain 'camel toe' and be blunt —"

**4** She said, "Call me," but later I wondered:  
Could it possibly be that I blundered?  
She struck me as shy  
And demure — so then why  
Does her phone number start with nine hunderd?  
(Chris J. Strolin, Belleville, Ill.)

**3** "An ailurophobe — ugh," my cats purr.  
"Your new girlfriend is worried our fur  
Will cause wheezes and hacks  
And allergic attacks,  
So you shan't cast us Persians on her."  
(Brendan Beary, Great Mills)

**2** the winner of the hula dancer night light:  
In the Alps lived a foundling so sad,  
Till one day came a woman, said, "Lad,  
Don't you recognize me?  
I'm your ma, can't you see?"  
"Yodeladyhoo married my dad?"  
(Howard Spindel, Portland, Ore.)

#### AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER

At Oxford, Bill Clinton dug classes,  
The campus, the culture, the lasses.  
When he told us a tale  
("Ah didn't inhale"),  
He was looking through Rhodes-scholarred glasses.  
(Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

#### WE COULDN'T BE RUDE /SO WE HAD TO INCLUDE ...

Some women are blessed with a slightly  
Derriere; some men notice them, rightly.  
But when one of them stuns,  
You should not yell, "Nice buns!"  
"Callipygian!" says it politely. (David Franks, Wichita)

As Bizet cadged his beer from the barmen,  
He groused in a tone less than charmen:  
"The singers were flat  
And unsexily fat:  
It's my fate to be dogged by bad Carmen."  
(Howard Spindel)

The scatterbrained fill me with dread  
When their actions relate to my head.  
A barber who's careless  
Might render me hairless;  
A doctor might render me dead. (Tim Alborn, Port Jefferson, N.Y.)

"Très bien, monsieur, boeuf cassoulet;  
I shall go tell ze chef, s'il vous plaît."  
Off the waiter then sped  
To the kitchen and said,  
"Yo, Gus! Dogs 'n' beans, right away!" (Brendan Beary)

Quite a sight the caduceus makes;  
It's the symbol a medico takes:  
With the healing he brings  
Signified by two wings;  
And insurers are shown by two snakes. (Dan Seidman, Watertown, Mass.)

I'm taking a sweet-loving belle  
To a candy boutique I know well.  
My hope is my charm'll  
Be heightened by caramel  
Or, if she prefers, caramel. (Chris J. Strolin)

A cataract surgeon named Hamel  
Refined his technique on a mammal.  
He'd flatter and wheedle  
The beast so his needle  
Could pass through the eye of a camel. (Chris Doyle)

The set for that big photo op  
Was a carrier Bush strode atop.  
But you know what was scarier?  
"Tween Bush and the carrier,  
It wasn't clear which was the prop.  
(Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

Though it sounds a bit callous and cruel,  
A cadaver's a body that's cool.  
In Anatomy, Gross,  
Some sport tags on their toes  
Boasting, "Ma, I'm in medical school!"  
(Phil Frankenfeld, Washington)

Old Joe, once a polished crusader,  
Was burned for his role as invader.  
At the caucus he said,  
"Your small state will be red  
This fall when I pull a Ralph Nader."  
(Tim Vanderlee, Rockville)

"Carburetor," we say in D.C.,  
Although none of our Brit friends agree.  
For they add in one letter,  
And say "carbuRETor."  
(You know how those blokes love their T.)  
(Brendan Beary)

"High C We Sing," it's our motto,  
And we boast of a killer vibrato  
Our sound is unmatched  
'Cause we're, well, unattached:  
You're just nuts if you're not a castrato.  
(Elwood Fitzner, Valley City, N.D.)

To understand tangents I strived.  
Integration I somehow contrived  
Just to grasp so I'd pass  
That darn calculus class.  
Then I knew that at last I derived.  
(Katherine Hooper, Jacksonville)

With a camcorder clutched in your hand  
(Or affixed to a three-legged stand)  
You can document all,  
So to better recall  
The spontaneous moments you've planned. (Jonathan Caws-Elwitt, Friendsville, Pa.)

I make cherry preserves, quite a few,  
And do a French dance step or two.  
I put up my jams,  
My skirt and my gams.  
I can can and can cancan. Can you? (Carole Lyons, Arlington)

The flamenco troupe struggled with debt;  
Their star dancer, Inez, was upset.  
But a wealthy senior  
Paid the debts off and more.  
He was caught when Inez castanet. (Sheila Blume, Sayville, N.Y.)

The calligrapher gained his renown  
And he turned his whole trade upside down  
With a fancy new script  
At which somebody quipped,  
"Seems we've got a new serif in town!" (Brendan Beary)

The cardinal hates spontaneity;  
He castigates us for our gaiety:  
"The Devil's within  
And your laughter's a sin . . ."  
That's no way to be treating a laity! (Chris Doyle)

And Last: In a limerick contest the spoils  
Get bestowed to the one who most toils.  
No use working real hard,  
I'll just play the ca- card,  
And then hope my name's next to Chris Doyle's. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Lots more Honorable Mentions can be seen at [www.washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational](http://www.washingtonpost.com/styleinvitational)

Next Week: Cut Us Some Slack, or Losing on a Sunday Afternoon

## Book, Film Stir WWII Emotions

HOLOCAUST, From D1

The Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, which recently moved to Washington from suburban Philadelphia, has issued a scathing 33-page rebuttal to "Saving the Jews" that not only takes issue with Rosen's arguments but also accuses him of plagiarism. It lists 21 passages that appear in the book "without quotation marks to indicate that they are another author's words rather than his."

In all cases, however, Rosen does give proper credit to the prior authors in footnotes — something the Wyman Institute's report neglects to mention.

"People should be careful about throwing around a charge like plagiarism," Rosen said in a telephone interview. "This is a very emotional debate, for them and for me. But we can disagree like gentlemen, I would think."

The Wyman Institute is named for historian David S. Wyman, the author of a 1984 critique of Roosevelt's wartime record, "The Abandonment of the Jews," that is often considered the definitive indictment of U.S. inaction.

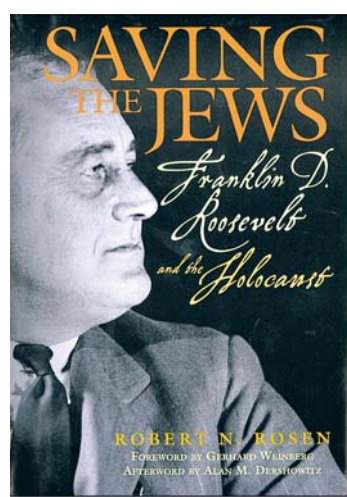
Rosen said it's no wonder he is under fierce counterattack, because his book takes on some of the most influential scholars and institutions in the field, including the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

"I'm glad it has generated some controversy. That was the point of it," he said. Rosen added, however, that he did not intend to impugn anyone's personal patriotism, only their historical biases.

"The academic world is full of people who really think America is the bad guy — you know, we were built on slavery, we killed the Indians, we're an imperialist power. There are many left-wing academics who are anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic and don't like America much. I wish I could take credit for that observation, but I'm hardly the first to say it," he said.

Rosen, who is Jewish, blames the "Wyman school" of Holocaust historians for what he believes is a giant intellectual fraud.

"Most people in America today think we should have bombed Auschwitz and American Jews were begging the government to do it,



but the Roosevelt administration didn't do it because John J. McCloy, the undersecretary of war, was an anti-Semite. That's the conventional story in a nutshell," he said. "I think it is totally erroneous."

Rosen, 58, is a lawyer with a busy practice in Charleston, S.C., who writes on the side. His last book, "The Jewish Confederates," was a sympathetic look at Jews who fought for the Southern states in the Civil War. He was piqued into writing "Saving the Jews" when he visited Boston's Holocaust Memorial in 2001 and saw an exhibit that said, "By late 1942, the United States and its allies were aware of the death camps but did nothing to destroy them."

As evidence that such statements are not only wrong but deliberately deceptive, Rosen cites a similar exhibit at Washington's U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. It shows an Aug. 9, 1944, letter from the World Jewish Congress passing on a Czechoslovakian official's request



BY CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI — ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Robert Rosen's new book, he defends FDR's decision not to bomb the Auschwitz death camp, above.

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"We try to show this issue in a nuanced way," Luckert said. "One

thing I have learned in my years as an historian is that things are rarely black and white. New documents are always coming out. What you don't want to do is say, 'All the answers are there; we don't need to do any more digging.'"

The furious response to Rosen's assertions could backfire, bringing him more attention than he would otherwise have received. The book is "selling steadily," said Michele Martin, interim head of Thunder's Mouth Press. Rosen said it has sold about 6,000 copies.

His book has a complimentary afterword by Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz and blurbs on the back cover from James MacGregor Burns ("an authoritative analysis") and Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. ("an essential book"). But it received some withering reviews when it came out in May.

Publishers Weekly called it a "bloated, repetitious volume" that "reads like one long apology" for FDR. The Jerusalem Post called it "a partisan riposte to the decades of serious work on the subject."

Still, the director of the Wyman Institute, Rafael Medoff, said he could not let stand "the ad-hominem attacks and mischaracterizations" of his own and other historians' works in Rosen's "otherwise unoriginal" book.

Medoff said Rosen was correct that Jewish leaders in Palestine initially opposed the bombing of Auschwitz. But, he said, that was because until mid-1944, they thought it was a labor camp, not a death factory. By July of 1944, the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem had received the first eyewitness account

of the mass-murder process, known as the Vrba-Wetzler report. After that, Medoff said, Jewish Agency officials around the world lobbied the United States and its allies to bomb Auschwitz and other death camps, to no avail.

Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, a former chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and one of the 55 signers of the letter protesting Rosen's book, said he thinks that Wyman and Medoff are closer than Rosen to the truth about FDR. But he acknowledged that "this is an ongoing, legitimate debate."

The whole episode, he added, is a reminder of the "twin dangers" of Holocaust research. "There's the danger you become so objective that you grow cold, and there's the danger you become so full of emotion that you can't tolerate anybody disagreeing," he said. "It really shows the wound is still raw. It hasn't turned to ancient history."

While the FDR debate continues to evolve, evangelist D. James Kennedy's Florida-based television and radio organization, Coral Ridge Ministries, has produced a TV documentary and a book linking the Holocaust to the theory of evolution.

Called "Darwin's Deadly Legacy," the documentary aired Aug. 26-27 on Christian cable networks and about 200 television stations across the country. It is now being sold on DVD along with the companion book, "Evolution's Fatal Fruit: How Darwin's Tree of Life Brought Death to Millions." Both describe the Nazis' embrace of eugenics and social Darwinism, their attempt to build a master race and to justify

racism, slavery and even murder as survival of the fittest.

Coral Ridge Ministries spokesman John Aman contended that "Darwinism is a philosophy, it's a worldview, and one of the key things in it is that evolution advances by death, so death is a good thing. Hitler thought he was doing civilization a favor by eliminating lives that were not worth living. We of course think that is an egregious moral tragedy and a consequence of the worldview that was initiated by Darwin and popularized by his followers."

Contemporary evolutionists consider eugenics and social Darwinism a perversion of evolutionary theory, not a legitimate extension of Darwin's thought. Some critics have called the documentary a political shot in the battle over creationism, one intended to promote the idea that belief in evolution is a moral slippery slope. Abraham H. Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, accused Kennedy of "trivializing the Holocaust" in a "mendacious attempt to score political points in the culture war."

The Anti-Defamation League also said it had contacted one of the best-known scientists interviewed in the documentary, Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, and found that he was misled. Collins speaks in the film about his view that evolution and belief in God are fully compatible, a position he elaborates in his book "The Language of God," published this year.

"I would not have agreed to participate if I had understood that the program would promote the concept of a direct connection between Darwin's theory of evolution and the evils of the Holocaust and the massacre at Columbine High School," Collins said in a written answer to questions from The Post. "My own views on evolution and faith are . . . strongly discordant with the perspective put forward by the producers of this documentary."

Coral Ridge Ministries said it would remove Collins's interview from any future airings of the documentary and would stop using his name to promote it.

"We consider him a fellow Christian and have reached a friendly understanding with him about this matter," Kennedy's organization said.

#### ON WASHINGTONPOST.COM

A copy of the letter from 55 historians protesting Robert N. Rosen's book, as well as the Wyman Institute's rebuttal, can be found at [www.washingtonpost.com/artsandliving](http://www.washingtonpost.com/artsandliving).

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Robert N. Rosen,  
author of "Saving the Jews," on criticism  
he has received

