

THE WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 764: Can You Up Chuck?



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Chuck Norris can kill two stones with one bird. When the boogeyman goes to sleep every night, he checks his closet for Chuck Norris. There's no Ctrl button on Chuck Norris's computer — Chuck Norris is always in control.**

Previous eras had their Sampsons, their Paul Bunyans, their John Henrys. In the dawn of the 21st century, our Man of Legend is one Carlos Ray Norris Jr., a 68-year-old middleweight karate champion turned movie and TV star who most recently made headlines by guiding his chosen presidential candidate, Mike Huckabee, straight into the White House. Well, okay, even Chuck Norris couldn't do that. But as you can see from the "facts" above — lifted right off the long list on ChuckNorrisFacts.com — there's no shortage of examples to demonstrate the supermanliness of Chuck Norris. At least we hope not. **This week: Come up with entirely new and funny Chuck Norris Facts.** Please feel free — in fact, please feel obligated! — to Google your idea to be sure it's original. This contest was suggested by Loser Since 1994 Sarah W. Gaymon of Gambrells.

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a card of temporary Tattoos for the Elderly, with such gnarly (well, gnarled) designs as "Out of Control," featuring a drawing of an adult diaper, and a set of dentures in a glass, with the legend "Bite Me." (What a nice gift for Chuck Norris!) From the ungnarled Ellen Raphaeli of Falls Church.

**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 Magnets. One prize per entrant per week. Send your entries by e-mail to [losers@washpost.com](mailto:losers@washpost.com) or by fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, May 19. Put "Week 764" 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 June 7. 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 and this week's Honorable Mentions name are by Russell Beland.

**We were so carried away with our stellar field of horse names last week that we forgot to note the numerous Losers who were First Offenders: So take belated offense from Bryan Crain, Modesto, Calif. (also a runner-up); Michael Martin, Stafford, Va.; Mike Sikorski, Rockville; Mike Jackson, Annandale; Bernard Brink, Cleveland, Mo.; Mia Wyatt, Ellicott City; Stephen Gilberg, Washington; and Mary Jo Sweeney, Crownsville. Each gets one of those stench-tastic tree-shaped car air fresheners in honor of his FirStink.**

REPORT FROM WEEK 760

in which all the "answers" in our "Jeopardy!"-style contest were reader-contributed Googlewhacks, phrases that generated exactly one Google hit: Funny but offered by almost everyone was an entry linking "accountants of the Serengeti" with "tax cheetahs."

**4** Answer: Three guys walk out of a bar. Question: What's the start of the favorite joke told at the Salvation Army? (Brad Alexander, Wanneroo, Australia)

**3** A: Amish technology blog. Q: What do the kids in Lancaster call the bulletin board on the barn wall? (Dan Ramish, Vienna)

**2** the winner of the massive promotional not-snow globe to be presented by the Empress at the Losers' own Flushies Awards on May 17:

A: Accountants of the Serengeti. Q: Who's featured next week on "Mutual of Omaha's Mild Kingdom"? (Marleen May, Rockville)

AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER

A: Recycled fingernails. Q: What does the CIA interrogation division use as snow in its annual Christmas skit? (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

WHACKS THAT WANE: HONORABLE MENTIONS

■ Accountants of the Serengeti What was Warren Zevon's less-successful follow-up to "Werewolves of London"? (Marc Channick, San Diego)

Who's on the staff at PriceWaterhole? (Randy Lee, Burke; Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.)

■ Amish Technology Blog What has no hits yet on ThySpace.com? (Chris Doyle)

Where would you read the question "Can I use zip-lock icebox bags, or must I keep using pins?" (George Vary, Bethesda)

What is surpassed in irony only by Bill Bennett's "Book of Virtues"? (Seth Brown, North Adams, Mass.)

■ Fine McDining What would be one of two things you'd be doing alone if you suggested taking your wife to McDonald's for Valentine's Day? (Michael Levy, Silver Spring)

How is Bear Stearns entertaining new job applicants "just until this credit thingie blows over"? (Elwood Fitzner, Valley City, N.D.)

What did the judge do about Mr. McDining's unpaid parking tickets? (Russell Beland, Springfield; Mae Scanlan, Washington)

■ 505 Unbelievably Stupid Web Pages, in No Particular Order What did 101 freshmen submit as research papers? (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

What is the official "Zippy the Pinhead" site? (Kevin Dopart)

Those hyperlinks scattered all over the stories on washingtonpost.com: What do they link to? (Peter Metrinko, Chantilly)

What would you get if you added 70 more members of Congress? (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

What do you have to visit to rack up enough PostPoints to get a free Slurpee? (Russ Taylor, Vienna)

■ Full Frontal Checkmate What sometimes happens when you're cornered by the bishop? (Peter Metrinko)

What's it called when a vastly obese couple try the missionary position? (John Kupiec, Fairfax)

What ESPN2 show beat out Nude Tag Team Sudoku in the ratings sweeps? (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

■ Huckleberry Norwegian What was the predecessor of the prune danish? (Maja Keech, New Carrollton)

What's the name of the new no-frills raft-and-pole cruise line? (Rick Haynes, Potomac)

Before Hollywood made her change it, what was Claire Danes's original name? (Ira Allen, Bethesda)

■ Marie Antoinette Bobblehead What will be featured in a YouTube ad encouraging Bastille Day visitors to take Metro? (Kevin Dopart; Roy Ashley, Washington; Steve Baldwin, Bethesda, a First Offender)

What doll's box is marked "Some Disassembly Required"? (Marleen May)

What novelty outsells the Sylvia Plath Easy-Bake Oven? (Chris Doyle)

What is a nice companion piece to the Louis XVI Pez dispenser? (Randy Lee)

■ Mud Wrestling Etiquette Why haven't the Democratic candidates gouged each other's eyes out yet? (Drew Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)

What code of social behavior is an anagram for "wet nudes merge, tilt, quit"? (Brad Alexander)

Why could no one lick Jesse Ventura? (Jay Shuck)

■ Recycled Fingernails What did surgeons use to enhance Joan Rivers's larynx? (John Kupiec)

What did cavemen use in their staplers? (Barbara Turner)

What is the most common hors d'oeuvre at diplomatic receptions in Pyongyang? (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

■ She's Very Sweet (Except After Dark) What's true of Hillary Clinton (except during the day)? (Russell Beland)

Why do I give my mother-in-law only milk chocolate? (Marleen May)

■ Three Guys Walk Out of a Bar What story line did Saint Matthew's editor suggest he remove from the tale of the Magi? (Peter Metrinko; Andy Bassett, New Plymouth, New Zealand)

What happens when Messrs. de Maupassant, Ritchie and Noir have all had enough to drink? (Kathy Hardis Fraeman, Olney)

Have you heard the one about the Mormon, the Muslim and the Baptist? (Chris Doyle)

What happens when three guys walk into a bar and see a priest, the minister and the rabbi? (Alyssa Glomb, Alexandria, a First Offender)

What happens when a priest and a ventriloquist are told it's closing time?

(Mae Scanlan)

Next Week: Strip Mining, or A Staake Deck



The second-place prize: Tat's very nice, dear.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN BIDDLE — THE WASHINGTON POST

Erin Mahoney-Du, center, as the Fairy Godmother with her woodland friends during rehearsal for "Cinderella."

A Pretty-as-a-Picture 'Cinderella'

DANCE, From C1

intensive, rather than passionate. (The fact that costumer Judanna Lynn dresses the couple in powder pink, with Michaels often lighting them in a comparable hue — adding a sort of "Barbie's First Pas de Deux" plasticity — doesn't help.)

In compensation, though, there was lots else to look



Chip Coleman, left, and Tamas Krizsa carry Maki Onuki while the Jester, a sparkling Jonathan Jordan, follows.

at throughout the show (the Washington Ballet previously performed Webre's "Cinderella" in 2003). The image of a forest, silhouetted against a black sky, dominates Kronzer's design. Spidery branches loom constantly overhead, and trees flank the indoor spaces. The motif adds a nice hint of ominousness, even during the stepsisters' extensive clowning. On Thursday, John Goding and Aaron Jackson were cartoon harridans, Jackson deftly supplying pratfalls as the sister who's a hopeless klutz.

The woods turn winsome when the Fairy Godmother (Erin Mahoney-Du) ushers in her numerous elfin and insect sidekicks. The seasonal fairies were particularly fetching Thursday: Jade Payette's Spring frolicked impishly; Elizabeth Gaither's Summer lounged languidly in the arms of the green dragonflies; Morgann Rose's peach-clad Autumn was crisp; Laura Urgelles's Winter echoed the gentleness of the drifting snowflakes. Other sylvan visitors included pint-size bumblebees, whose adorable-tot score was predictably off the charts.

Twigs entwine with chandeliers as the forest frames the ballroom, with its stately mirrors and its nobles in ice-blue Enlightenment attire. Webre's choreography often surrounds Cinderella and the Prince with waltzing courtiers, eclipsing the central lovers but creating a delectable Busby Berkeley effect, especially when the men lift and rotate the women, and the stage dissolves in swirls of azure tulle.

It would be remiss not to appreciate Jonathan Jordan's Jester, who was dexterous and full of personality. Dressed in a purple harlequin outfit, he mocked the stepsisters. He pretended to be a bullfighter's bull when the Prince searched Spain for Cinderella. He leapt into the air and seemed to hang there, arms and legs horizontally outstretched, like an offbeat jack-in-the-box. If Cinderella had any real taste, she would have ditched the bland Prince and eloped with this charismatic wag.

**Cinderella**, music by Sergei Prokofiev; choreography, Septime Webre. About two hours. Through tomorrow at the Warner Theatre, 513 13th St. NW. Call 202-397-7328 or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

MUSIC

British Sea Power

Ever since the Sex Pistols failed to destroy rock-and-roll, U.K. pop pundits have been suspicious of "rockism." So it took some cheek for British Sea Power to name its latest album "Do You Like Rock Music?" As the Brighton quartet demonstrated Thursday night at the Black Cat, it's derived new inspiration from classic rock. But if the musicians have streamlined both their music and act — they no longer wear vintage military uniforms onstage — they haven't transformed them. British Sea Power still sounds more like Echo and the Bunnymen than, say, Roy Orbison.

Such new songs as "Waving Flags" were tighter than the band's earlier material, and "Canvey Island" did indeed suggest Orbison — or rather, an Orbison-rooted Bruce Springsteen epic. The "Born to Run"-style sweep wasn't the only hint of the band's previous grandiosity. The stage was festooned with branches, and frontman Yan (just Yan) briefly wore a leafy garland in his hair. The quartet was supplemented by two musicians who added violin, cornet, keyboards and backing vocals. And the show ended with a lengthy rave-up that evoked the band's enduring fascination with oceanic power and turmoil. Excess and sameness remain



ROUGH TRADE RECORDS

British Sea Power swept into the Black Cat on a tide of classic rock.

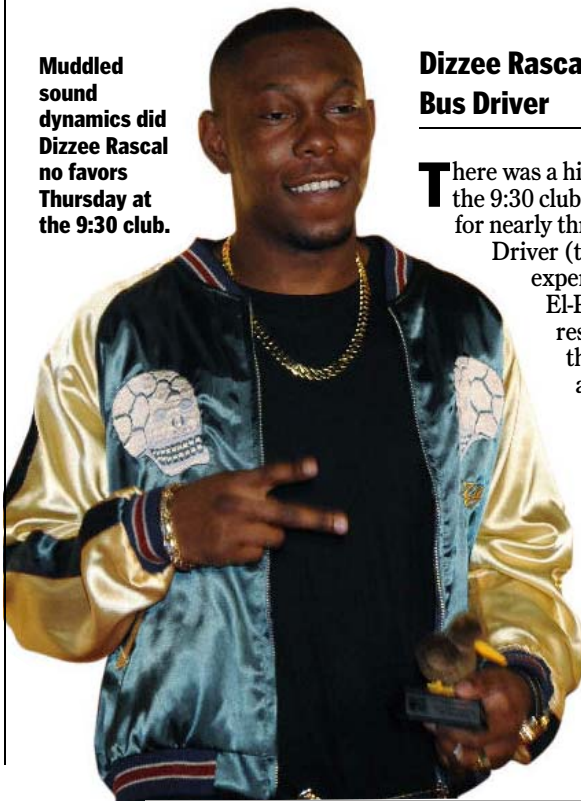
the twin shoals that threaten the band; too many of the songs worked themselves up to more or less the same tempest. Yet such songs as "A Trip Out" worked just as intended, marrying rock urgency to adventure-tale romance. Despite some time in the doldrums, the set demonstrated that British Sea Power still has new realms to explore.

— Mark Jenkins

Dizzee Rascal, El-P and Bus Driver

There was a hip-hop concert at the 9:30 club on Thursday, and for nearly three hours, Bus Driver (the smart,

experimental opener), El-P (emcee and respected owner of the Def Jux label) and Dizzee Rascal (a British star and one of world's most distinctive rappers) made a mess of their superb songs. It wasn't entirely their fault, however. It's a problem all



BY PATRICK RIVIERE — REUTERS

too common with hip-hop shows: The sound was so overdriven that outside the snare-drum snaps and pants-ripping bass, the only things that could be heard with regularity were the muffled and unintelligible words from these three distinct and wildly different emcees. But the distorted mix rendered their voices monochromatic blurs of noise.

Bus Driver's recordings keep his psychedelic freak-hop contained enough that his musical hooks and funny wordplay are obvious, but the chaos sounded even more unhinged live.

El-P's tough-minded sound is more direct, and it translated okay live, but even he couldn't overcome the loud-and-louder dynamics.

And Dizzee Rascal's brilliant words, filled with U.K. slang, are hard enough to understand on record, but it was fruitless trying to discern them live.

Some may argue hip-hop can survive on beats and bass alone, but melodies do help, and the witty words of these rappers deserve a chance to be heard.

Even so, the audience that congregated in the half-filled venue didn't seem to mind the muddle. They still waved their arms in the air as if they just didn't care.

— Christopher Porter