

Style Invitational »

THIS WEEK'S CONTEST

Week 806: DQ Very Much



BY BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

"Mommy, quick, what should I order?"

For every romantic possibility, no matter how robust, there exists at least one equal and opposite sentence, phrase, or word capable of extinguishing it."

This "Theory of Disqualifying Statements" was coined back in 1996 by theory-coiner Malcolm Gladwell in the brand-new online magazine Slate, in an "electronic diary" that we'd now call a blog. Gladwell discovered the principle when a woman he was flirting with announced that all her boring relatives had gone to Harvard, but not she; oh no, she was the black sheep, a maverick — she went to . . . Brown. Pffft to the potential romance. Disqualifying statement.

Jay Levitt of Cambridge, Mass., who brought this theory to our attention, rightly suggests that a list of Disqualifying Statements would be a welcome antidote to any remaining toxic fumes of Valentine's Day sentimentality. He suggested: "my second parole officer," "the quintessence of the 'Star Trek' milieu" and "some of my World of Warcraft characters." **This week: Give us a phrase or sentence that would nip a potential relationship in the bud (or elsewhere).**

Winner gets the Inker, the official Style Invitational trophy. Second place gets the remote-control-motif necktie donated and modeled here by Loser Peter Metrinko, whose visage formerly graced this page peeking through the leg hole of a pair of white briefs. (Peter has 255 Invitational ink blots and zero shame.) This cravat is an item of genuine value; indeed, its packaging clearly lists its genuine value at exactly \$1.00.

Other runners-up win a coveted Style Invitational Loser T-shirt. Honorable Mentions get one of the lusted-after Style Invitational 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 9. Put "Week 806" 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 March 28. No purchase required for entry. Employees of The Washington Post, and their immediate relatives, are not eligible for prizes. Pseudonymous entries will be disqualified. This week's Honorable Mentions name was sent by both Rick Haynes and Beverley Sharp; the revised title for next week's results is by Jeffrey Contompasis.

REPORT FROM WEEK 802 in which we asked for new ideas for cable TV channels:

4 The Nudist Channel: Nothing's ever on. (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf)

3 The Hagiography Channel: President Obama's inauguration, President Obama's campaign speeches, and occasional specials on other leaders who saved the world (and influenced President Obama) such as FDR and Lincoln. Coming next season: President Obama walking the dog. (Jeff Hazle, Woodbridge, a First Offender)

2 the winner of the *Tabloid Tycoon* old computer game: Guns 'N Moses: The all-Heston channel. (Russell Beland, Fairfax)

» AND THE WINNER OF THE INKER The Loining Channel. "Adult education." (John O'Byrne, Dublin)

CHANNEL SERFS: HONORABLE MENTIONS

ADHDTV (a.k.a. Short-Attention-SPAN): In rotation every two seconds, all 18,000 cable channels on your system. So throw away the remote, fellas. (Marcy Alvo, Annandale; Vicki Zatarain, Washington)

The Meta-Network: Round-the-clock talking heads discussing how dreadful television is these days. (Anne Paris, Arlington)

The Knee-Jerk Right-Wing Nut Job Network: It's a lot like Fox but without all that balance. (Russell Beland)

TickerNet: All scrolling news without the annoying background videos and talking heads. (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

Big Prostate TV: Your favorite shows, but with convenient two-minute programming breaks every 20 minutes. (Russ Taylor, Vienna)

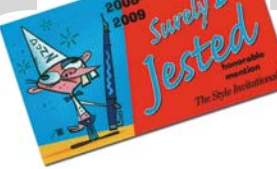
The Moebius Channel: A one-sided documentary that never ends. (Jay Shuck, Minneapolis)

Wikipedia News Network: Viewer-submitted news featuring the daily program "Here's What I Think Happened," the weekly travelogue "Life in These 53 States" and the 12-part documentary "City on the Edge of Tomorrow Is the Best 'Star Trek' Episode Ever." Regular contributors include a bunch of guys in sweat pants and Hannity & Colmes. (Maureen Driscoll, Toluca Lake, Calif., a First Offender)

The Henry VIII Channel: Four talking heads, two non-talking heads. (Jay Shuck)

Rabbit Ears Nostalgia: Watch former analog broadcasts as they were meant to be, with realistic blur, various lines and interference from space heaters. (Dave Prevar, Annapolis)

CVS, the Conjugal Visit Surveillance channel: These inmates were promised conjugal visits, but who said anything about privacy? (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)



In these uneasy times, sometimes you just have to cross your fingers and go for it: And we're about to order up a bunch of new Loser Magnets for the Invite's Honorable Mentions. Here are the current ones, designed as always by Bob Staake; we need two new slogans. Send ideas to losers@washpost.com with "magnet slogan" in the subject line. Winners will get Bob's signed pencil sketch of the magnet's design. And a magnet.



Remotely amusing: Loser Peter Metrinko (not included) wears this week's second-place prize.

Headline News: Twenty-four-hour advice on avoiding and treating cooties. (Marty McCullen, Gettysburg, Pa.)

The PBS Continuous Pledge Drive Channel: The same 12 "specials" over and over and over again. So pretty much like regular PBS. (Andrew Hoenig, Rockville)

Live Radar: 24/7 webcams of Gary Burghoff's house. (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Urban Legend Television: It's a channel you can get only with a special black box built by a friend of a friend, some dude who lives in a bomb shelter in Calvert County. (Lawrence McGuire)

The Left-Handed Albino Neologists of Hibernia Born on Feb. 3 in the Year of the Ox Channel: Niche programming at its fullest. (Lawrence McGuire)

ESP-N: We know just what you want to watch. (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

Optimists News Channel: "The nation's employment rate remained above 90 percent last quarter as, locally, the vast majority of homes did not burn down." (Russell Beland)

The Illinois Channel: Kickback and enjoy! (Beverley Sharp, Washington)

The Unused-Fireplace Channel: For the 364 days when "Yule Log" isn't on. (Wayne Rodgers, Satellite Beach, Fla.)

Al-Jazeera Hebrew: Building on the success of Al-Jazeera English, the network offers a translated version of its news service. Balanced content will present both viewpoints: pro-Arab and anti-Israeli. (Jeffrey Contompasis, Ashburn)

The Total Infomercial Network: Where every program airs without commercial interruption. (Thomas S. Urban, Reston, a First Offender)

Next Week: The Peppy Show, or Tainted Diary Products

Beware of the Flying Drumstick — It's the JoBros in 3-D!

JONAS, From Page C1

perventilate at the very thought of the newest kings of the massive puppy-pop market. To them, this is the answer to "The Last Waltz." To the rest of you, rated G means go away.

The tradition of young girls losing their minds en masse for dreamy young male singers is older than rock-and-roll itself, so director Bruce Hendricks makes an obvious nod to one of the biggest names on the teen-idol continuum: The movie opens with the brothers running through the streets of Manhattan, a mob of hysterical fans pretending to be in hot pursuit, à la the Beatles in "A Hard Day's Night."

This isn't for anybody to whom the Jonas Brothers must be explained or defended.

Nice reference, but a dangerous data point. (The brothers might be able to hang with Badfinger, but not the Beatles.) And really, the staged homage isn't necessary. There are plenty of real moments that capture

those fan hysterics. "I'm gonna throw up!!!" one excited girl exclaims, and another is shown having trouble breathing. Even the brothers themselves seem in awe of the adulation: When their SUV approaches Times Square for a mid-night album-release party, the Jonases appear genuinely floored by the massive turnout. Key quote from inside the SUV: "Oh, my gosh."

Filed at concerts in Anaheim, Calif., and at New York's Madison Square Garden, the performance parts of "Jonas Brothers" will be mostly familiar to anybody who caught the band's "Burnin' Up" tour, which played to 1.3 million fans last year, according to Pollstar.

The main difference: Theoretically, you can actually hear the band's outsize hooks, muscular melodies, buzzing power chords and bright harmony vocals on songs such as "B.B. Good," "S.O.S.," "Burnin' Up" and "Hold On" as the squeals are turned way down in the audio mix. Alas, moviegoers are picking up the slack.

Most of the slower JoBros songs have been left in the editing bay, in the interest of keeping the movie moving. And move it does, with quick editing cuts and constant motion onstage and off, whether it's Joe Jonas (19, the hot one) doing a roundhouse kick, Nick Jonas (16, the cute one) doing somersaults or Kevin Jonas (21, the other one) goofing off backstage.

The movie's running time is right around an hour and 15 minutes, which seems right for the short-attention-span set. Still, a wobbly duet with opening act Demi Lovato is included because, well, it's a Disney movie, and Lovato, like the Jonas Brothers, is on the Disney roster as an actress and singer. (More synergy: The film includes footage of the JoBros on Disney-owned ABC's "Good Morning America,"



BY FRANK MASI — DISNEY

Taylor Swift, the Nashville ingenue, joins the Jonas Brothers for a song in "The 3D Experience."

and the "3D Concert" soundtrack is out now on Disney's Hollywood Records. With songs playing on Radio Disney, natch.)

Also notable: Nashville star Taylor Swift makes a special cameo to perform "Should've Said No." It's a song with a universal message about female self-esteem. Given that Swift was later dumped by Joe Jonas via telephone, however, it

sounds almost like a personal forecast.

The 3-D enhancements are especially eye-popping when drumsticks or guitar picks are thrown at the cameras and seem to continue spinning off the screen and into the cinema, and also when the brothers spray the audience with foam, fired from hoses, in one of the weirdest moments of the "Burnin' Up" shows

and, now, the movie.

Mostly, though, "The 3D Concert Experience" is about the Jonas Brothers reminding their young, screaming fans of the good old days of 2008.

Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience (76 minutes, at area theaters) is rated G for all-around goody-goodness.

With Revenue Declining, WETA Plans Layoffs and Salary Cuts

Public broadcaster WETA of Arlington said it will cut its workforce by 13 percent and reduce management salaries by a similar amount, in response to falling revenue.

The layoffs affect 15 people in fundraising, broadcasting operations and communications, and include the elimination of 14 positions that are vacant.

WETA, which operates TV Channel 26 and radio station

WETA (90.9 FM), said the cutback was prompted by the ailing economy, which has battered its funding sources. Through the first six months of its current fiscal year, which ends on June 30, WETA's operational revenue fell \$2.1 million, or 13 percent, compared with the same six months of the previous fiscal year. Viewer and listener pledges, which account for about half of revenue, are down about 10

percent. WETA had been projecting annual revenue of around \$16 million.

In a memo this week to employees, WETA President Sharon Rockefeller said the cuts will result in savings of \$2.5 million. She said the moves were prompted by "increased competition for our audiences, decreases in membership contributions and corporate underwriting, escalating capital costs

and negative returns on investments."

Rockefeller is among the senior managers who will take a pay cut of 13 to 15 percent, WETA said.

WETA said it will have fewer new program ideas in development next year, but will continue to produce about the same number of programs for national distribution via the Public Broadcasting Service.

— Paul Farhi