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BY DAVE MARTIN — ASSOCIATED PRESS

See **Bill run?** The Senate majority leader addresses reporters yesterday at the Coca-Cola 600.

At Raceway, Frist's Engine Is at a Fast Idle

After a Tough Week, Senator Looks to Be Tracking Toward '08

By MIKE ALLEN
Washington Post Staff Writer

CONCORD, N.C., May 29 — "Senator Frist!" the Coca-Cola executive kept alerting the NASCAR drivers as they hoofed past the majority leader after they were introduced before Sunday's crash-strewn Coca-Cola 600.

The Coke exec added an insistent jerk of his thumb to show them who he was talking about. For good measure, the Tennessee Republican had "Senator Bill Frist" embroidered above the right pocket of the starched white short-sleeve shirt that had been issued by his hosts, the Coke folks.

But most of the drivers still paid little attention. So Frist decided to make himself useful and started steering the drivers toward young autograph-seekers directly across from him on the other side of the chute

See FRIST, C4, Col. 1



BY HELAINE SEDMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Former critic and magazine editor Jeff Jarvis says blogs represent the rise of a new "citizens' media."

Media Notes

Jeff Jarvis, On the Inside Blogging Out

By HOWARD KURTZ
Washington Post Staff Writer

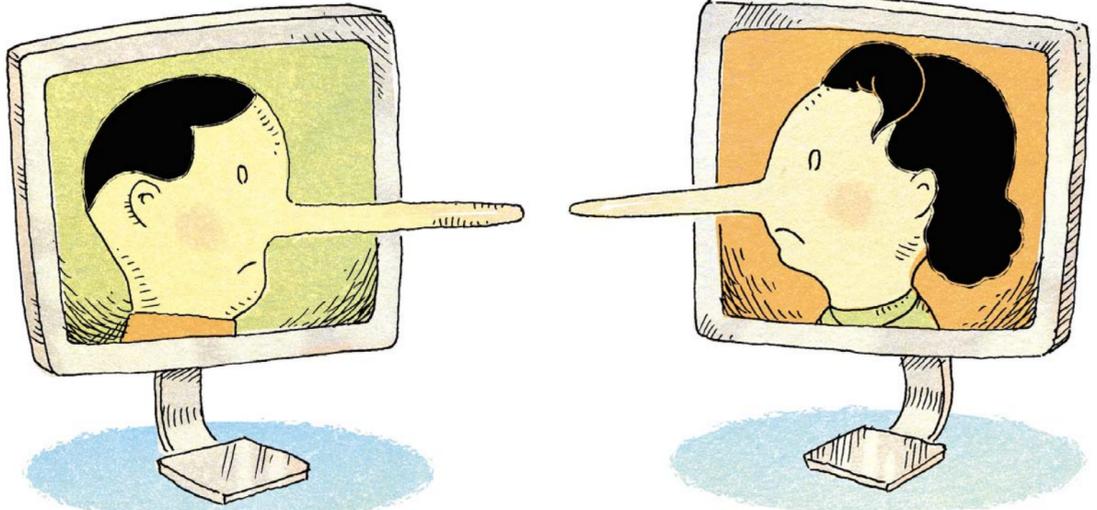
He has denounced shoddy journalism, defended whipped-cream-covered strippers on television, discussed the pope on MSNBC, called in to Howard Stern, exchanged erudite letters with the editor of the New York Times, and championed the idea that any citizen can be "a Wolf Blitzer in sheep's clothing."

In the process, he says, he has "rebranded" himself as Blog Boy.

Jeff Jarvis, a former critic for People and TV Guide and a founding editor of Entertainment Weekly, has moved from writing for millions to blogging for thousands, slinging opinions on subjects ranging from the war on terror to car stereos. "God knows how many bits and bytes I've wasted on my blathering," he says.

Jarvis, 50, churns out all manner of commentary on his Web site BuzzMachine.com, operated with

See MEDIA NOTES, C14, Col. 1



ILLUSTRATIONS BY WESLEY BEDROSIAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Getting to Know You

Building Relationships, Listener Base on WHUR

By LONNAE O'NEAL PARKER
Washington Post Staff Writer

Some of the men say it is Audrey Chapman's voice that draws them to their radios and has them dialing into her show.

How's your relationship with yourself? If it's not in good shape, you're probably having difficulty relating to others and they're having difficulties making a relationship work with you. You're probably caught up in power struggles, unable to work through conflicts. If this is you, you need to call me . . .

It is a husky voice, authoritative and strong; but not so strong that it will cut them down to size, though they say that's what black women's voices sometimes do. It is the voice of a Saturday morning two-hour oasis of nonjudgment in a culture that's always judging and often finding them wanting as husbands and lovers and fathers and friends. That sees them as irresponsible, or doesn't see them much at all.

Black men don't have permission "to woo anybody, to make mistakes, to own up to our mistakes and ask for forgiveness," says Reggie Sanders, a 48-year-old divorced public relations

See CHAPMAN, C2, Col. 1

Tell-All Sites Put Online Dater Profiles to Truth Test

By SANDY FERNANDEZ
Washington Post Staff Writer

Online dating traditionally has been a pretty solitary affair: just you and your computer, flipping through profiles with the hope that somewhere, typing away, there's someone else who enjoys Montecristo sandwiches, the Paint, and late-night viewings of "Aqua Teen Hunger Force."

You have no wingman amusing her friends barside as you chat up the cute brunette in nerdy glasses. No reassurances from your cousin that her neighbor, though a little strait-laced, is "a really nice guy." And if that athletic 28-year-old you've been e-mailing turns out to be a dumpy, married 35-year-old, no recourse but to go back online and try again.

But now you can roast 'em on one of a handful of new Web sites that are making it their business to let users review their online dates.

"This dater takes great photos, but when you meet face to face, he's small and skinny. The face is the same, but none of his photos show his true size," says a typical posting.

Singles, be afraid. Be very afraid.

One of the sites creating the biggest buzz is Truedater.com,

See TRUEDATER, C2, Col. 1



TV Preview

'Faith of My Fathers': In Principle, a Noble Effort

By MARCIA DAVIS
Washington Post Staff Writer

Few politicians enjoy instant credibility, that reflexive respect and deference we offer when we know the person before us has far deeper knowledge of a particular topic. When that person speaks, we listen.

Maybe it's because that kind of credibility is often hard-won, rooted in great loss or great sacrifice.

Georgia's Rep. John Lewis, with his civil rights battle scars, has it.

Former Kansas senator Bob Dole

has it, his World War II-damaged arm a constant reminder.

And when it comes to prisoners of war, it's Sen. John S. McCain we turn to. When those first pictures of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib turned up, the news media went to the Arizona Republican, a Navy fighter pilot who spent 5½ years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. McCain endured solitary confinement, routine beatings and on occasion "imaginative" torture, such as being strung up for hours by ropes

See TV PREVIEW, C7, Col. 3

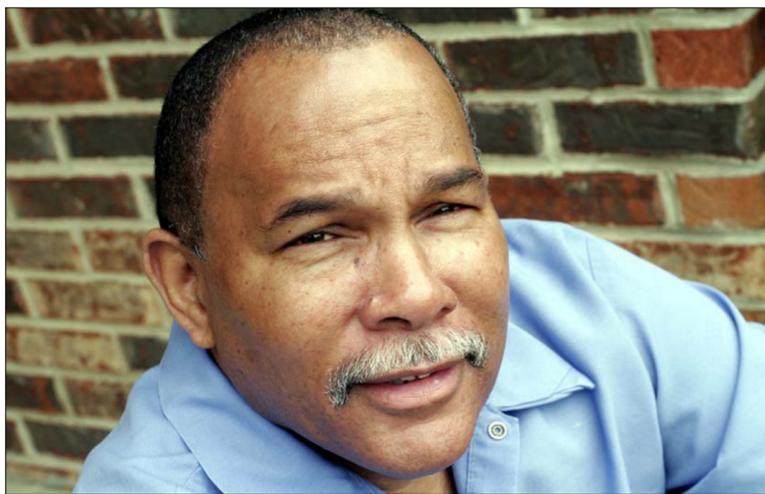


BY PATTI PERRET

Shawn Hatosy as prisoner of war John McCain in the mediocre A&E movie.



BY MICHAEL ROBINSON-CHAVEZ — THE WASHINGTON POST



BY MARVIN JOSEPH — THE WASHINGTON POST

Listeners Reggie Sanders, left, and Earl Smith are Chapman fans. Sanders says black men can be hungry "for information we get to hear unfiltered, and un-angry. . . . This is not sex talk and slow music."

Why So Many Men Reach Out to Audrey Chapman

CHAPMAN, From C1

consultant from Washington. Chapman gives them permission and advice, and that's why he's a longtime fan of her radio show, along with the thousands of other men who make up nearly a third of her listenership.

Every week for 14 years on WHUR-FM, "The Audrey Chapman Show" has featured guests and call-in comments on love and relationships: addictions vs. relationships, power and control, rejection. It has been a stable place for a dating game that is tough, in a popular culture that seems less tolerant of vulnerability.

The sometimes toxic dating environment has been especially hard on black people, who Chapman says are the most "unpartnered" people in the country (with the highest rates of divorce and highest proportion of children born to single mothers). And in the shifting sands of fast-paced lives and high-end technology, she has staked her flag in something that seems slower and more old-fashioned: conversation, dialogue, information, exchange.

It's a recent Saturday morning and Chapman's guest, a Charlottesville-based mediator named Bob Garrity, is sharing tips on how couples can recognize when it's time to get a third person to help resolve seemingly intractable disputes.

Giovanni Wade, 45, a government procurement analyst from Upper Marlboro who has been married 25 years and has three grown sons, is listening. As he has for six or seven years.

"What about when someone doesn't want mediation?" he calls the show to ask. "You can't ask people to go to mediation if mediation is going to cause them to lose." He talks about partners who want to maintain "power and control" and veer into manipulation.

"Power and control": Those words brought on the men, Chapman tells

listeners, signaling that her phone lines have suddenly filled with male callers.

Wade says the show's topics address issues that he and other men have dealt with, or hidden from. "I know a lot of black men are hurting because they didn't have the love of a father and their mother spoiled them and gave them their way," he says. "I came from a home where there was no dad. Where there were eight children from five different relationships. I saw abuse. Men need to learn there is a better way."

The women call in and, Wade says, they often expect Chapman to side with them. "They think Audrey Chapman is going to be one-sided or she's going to rescue the ladies and not recognize that men have emotional needs as well and we're not all doggyish. She's not one-sided."

Wade says he once called into a show about sexual abuse because it has brushed his family and he thinks speaking up has value. "I worked in a shelter for young guys, ages 12 to 18, and I was always trying to get them to open up. 'Bro, let's be real, you're hurting,'" he would tell them. "Most guys don't want to become vulnerable. There's not much of a forum for that. I believe the [show] has closed that gap a little bit."

Chapman has a loyal female fan base, which has helped make her the top-rated show in her Saturday morning 8-to-10 time slot, with 21,000 listeners, but she says the men — mostly African American, but also Indian, African and Caribbean — appreciate how she chides them or provides information without making them feel belittled.

"There's so much hostility between black men and black women," Chapman says, so male listeners "study me, they listen to how I talk. . . . When they feel safe, they call."

Reggie Sanders laments that much of the romance seems to have disappeared from R&B music and R&B people.



1999 PHOTO BY JUANA ARIAS — THE WASHINGTON POST

For 14 years, Audrey Chapman has been taking callers' questions about love and relationships from the studio of WHUR-FM. Almost a third of her listeners are men.

He says black men often feel that women are just waiting for them to make some huge relationship blunder. He'll often say to black women: "How would you like it if you began a job on Monday morning and your boss walks up to you and said, 'The last black woman we had on this job didn't do so well, so we're going to be watching you.' That's the way it is with us at every level of life — professional, social, walking down the street and in our relationships." It's why black men can be so hungry "for information we get to hear un-

filtered, and un-angry," he says. It's why he's listened to the show since it began. "This is not sex talk and slow music," he says. It's something more real.

DeMarkus Brown, 30, a truck driver who lives in Mitchellville with his parents, has been listening on and off for only a couple of months, but he has called in three times. "A mediator and a couple can try to work something out, but they are not there when things go down in the household," Brown says on the air.

"It seems like women always win," he says later. "If they don't get it all they feel like they've lost. If they get 70 percent and the man gets 30, they feel like they've been cheated." Even though he thinks the show slants toward women, he says he listens and calls in to help give the other side.

Because a dialogue needs voices. That's why Earl Smith, 59, a retired National Institutes of Health lab technician from Burtonsville who has been married 37 years and has three grown kids, calls in almost every week. He has listened for seven years and he calls so often the producer knows his voice.

"Hi, Earl," says Chapman when he calls into a show about women who aren't that into the guys they are dating. "It's like the fishing world," he offers. "It's like catch-and-release. You catch the person, check them out. If, for whatever reason, they aren't the right size you throw them back. Then you say, 'Who else can I hook?'" He and Chapman share a laugh.

When Smith got married, he later explains, he "still acted single." He first tuned in when Chapman did a show about married men and single ladies "and the disadvantages that come with it — believe me, there are a lot of disadvantages and pressures," he says, "especially when it comes to birthdays and holidays. Now I'm on the other side." And so naturally he likes to call in and share his insights. "Some months ago, this Indian guy called in about his daughter. We're all going through the same thing, regardless of race."

He does custodial work some Saturdays and often a group of guys will huddle around the radio to listen. "If your husband was out all night," he says, "or if you're a married man and your wife's been out all night, you can tune in and get an answer to your problems." And where else on a Saturday morning can you get that? he asks.

'Fit and Buff' Had a Flabby Duff? Set the Record Straight Online.

TRUEDATER, From C1

which launched in January and claims, says co-founder Mark Geller, "tens of thousands" of users so far. On Truedater (which features the quote used above), visitors can input online identities from four dating sites — market leaders Match.com, American Singles and Yahoo Personals, plus the more niche Jewish site JDate — and search for reviews that'll tell them if, say, Lovinit62 isn't quite the six feet he claimed, or if Cutedoctor14 seems longer in the tooth than 32.

Helpful links take you to the target's profile with a button click. Users can also post anonymously, under an online name (Truedater ad-

"Our real goal is a growing movement for more honesty."

Mark Geller
Founder of Truedater.com

vises people not to repeat the handle they date under). The site's basic question: whether the person reviewed is a "truedater," i.e., truthful in his or her self-portrayal.

"What we're trying to do is create a system of feedback, so people understand that they can't just get away with lying," says Geller, a veteran of online dating. "Our real goal is a growing movement for more honesty."

There's little doubt the online dating world could use it.

Falls Church resident Jeff Martin, 32, went on Match.com in 2003, after his divorce. He estimates that, in the year that he used the site, he went on dates with 60 women. About a fourth to a third differed significantly from their profile, says Martin, most using a picture that was "five years and 20 pounds ago." His biggest shocker? A woman who sent him photos of a tall, athletic blonde — one of her lying on the beach in a red bikini — then flew herself out from San Diego to meet him and turned out to be someone else entirely.

"She probably outweighed me by 30 pounds,"

says the 185-pound Martin. "Her face was not at all the same."

He squired Ms. Someone Else around all three days they'd planned. She never copped to the deception. Love did not bloom.

Match.com spokeswoman Kristin Kelly says that in one of its surveys, 92 percent of respondents reported being perfectly honest in their profiles. But in a large-scale 2001 Canadian study, more than a quarter of respondents admitted misrepresenting themselves; other surveys have had similar results.

Clicking through the reviews on Truedater — which are browsable, by the way — the road to the truth revolution seems paved with juicy Schadenfreude.

"This guy's pictures are WAY out of date! They are about 10 years old — and those 10 years haven't done him any justice!" writes MindyW about an unfortunate date. A link to her mark's JDate profile shows three pictures of a mop-haired young man, smiling and squinting in the sun.

"REAL waste of time," begins a review of another unfortunate. "Age & years he went to school don't jive. Graduate education that doesn't exist. . . . Rambling about excuse . . . You get the picture!"

Attempts to reach the dissed were unsuccessful.

"Definitely, a fair number of people go on just to read the dating reviews," says Dominic Ang about Niftyguy.com, the site he co-founded in April. Billing itself as "your guide to who's nifty in the San Francisco Bay area," the site contains browsable reviews — sometimes labeled with the person's full name. The reviews are not just about dates, but also cover professionals for hire, like plumbers and hairstylists.



BY GERALD MARTINEAU — THE WASHINGTON POST

Jeff Martin of Falls Church came across many dating service photos that were taken "five years and 20 pounds ago."

As on Truedater, a decent percentage is positive. But the negative ones — like the guy who gets tagged a "total weirdo" for IM-ing his crush too much — "are the funniest," says Ang. "They crack me up."

Like Geller, Ang says that because his site merely posts the reviews rather than creating them, he and his site are "only publishers and distributors of the information." Both sites plainly say they do no verification, though they do remove posts deemed offensive, and give users an easy way to report those.

Match.com's Kelly finds that position troubling. "A free-form venue to discuss people is interesting," she says. "That does seem to be something that consumers want to do. But you have to be real careful about violating people's privacy."

"Truedater is not making any claim about the veracity of the information, which could be hurtful and damaging. They're careful to distance themselves from that responsibility but it's there nonetheless."

Opinity.com, a Web site launched last month as an "online and social reputation services company," also guards its information carefully. "We don't let users browse the reviews," says CEO Ted Cho. "This is not for fun."

Users can rate other people online under the categories of commerce (say, a seller on eBay), community (a voice on a Yahoo message board), gaming (a player of Ultima Online) or dating. Aside from writing an opinion, they're also asked to rank certain qualities on a standard 1-to-5 scale. Under "dating," for example, you'll be asked about honesty, helpfulness and "skill," among others. The results are then

turned into percentages and cheery graphs.

But there's no rubbernecking here: To look someone up, "you need to know them — at least their username and the Web site they're on," says Cho. "This is not 'hot or not'; we want this information to have value. We imagine people coming here with a very specific agenda."

For the most part, Opinity avoids the subjectiveness that devils other sites. Because it's clear that, in the land of online love, the difference between honesty and etiquette is sometimes perilously unclear. People get flamed for refusing second dates, not returning phone calls or — in one notably clueless example — not returning a Wink, the automated e-mail that Match allows a user to send in lieu of a personal

"This guy's pictures are WAY out of date! They are about 10 years old."

MindyW
Reviewer on Truedater.com

message.

Frani Levinson, a Reseda, Calif., beauty clinic owner, went on Truedater shortly after the site was launched, looking for some of the 40 men she has dated over the last two years.

A lot of postings, she says, seemed to fall in a certain category: "He didn't like her or she didn't like him and then he goes on the site and ends up ruining her," she says. "And she could be a cool person. You don't know who you can trust."

Backing Geller's assertion that "the users feel invested in the site," Levinson, 44, has clear ideas about what is and isn't acceptable. Last year, she says, she dated a man who stopped calling her after she walked in on him cross-dressing.

"But I wouldn't post that, because I wouldn't want to expose him," she says. It would have to be, she says, that someone was blatantly dishonest with her.

She pauses. "But then, I lie about my age, so who am I to judge?"