MATCH.COM PROFILES Bill Lanphier

There are *way* too many exquisitely-boring user profiles on match.com, and probably all internet dating sites. Many of the people who write the profiles, or the profiles themselves have these elements:

- * Begin with, "My friends would describe me as..." They would? Okay then, what would it take to get them to actually go through with it?
- * Finger is chronically stuck on the period/dot key...Kinda always leaves ya hanging...Or they're assuming you're hanging on their every word...but it doesn't get it for me...When writing, there are so many excellent opportunities for using just a simple period. Or not...
- * Want to cuddle by the fire.
- * Have several pictures of their dog(s), but only one picture of themselves, and it's shot from roughly a half-mile away with a one-megapixel cell phone from the late 80s.
- * Include several travel pictures, most notably some beach at sunset. I don't care to see yet another picture of the Eifel Tower with some stupid face in it, little Miss Bridget Bardot. How about just a sentence like, "I've traveled all over the world in order to stand in line with other ugly Americans...that makes me very special...but I hate to brag on myself!!!...LOL!!....."
- * Describe themselves as "spiritual." Does the word really mean enough to someone that they can define it for me?
- * Like jazz. Really? Do you ever actually listen to jazz at home, by yourself? How many jazz recordings are in your library? How many actually get a listening, other than as audio wallpaper during a candlelit dinner with that special someone, who secretly hates jazz, nearly as much as you do.
- * If a sense of humor is so important to you, why not go for broke and include, within your carefully-crafted, 6500-word profile, just one amusing sentence or anecdote?
- * And finally, the preposterous absolutes that the writer has, "everything I need in life and the only thing missing is that 'special someone.' Is it you?"
- * Sorry, one more thing I just remembered, but it's by no means of lesser annoyance. Maybe it's the most annoying. The person writes in the second person ("you") instead of acknowledging and addressing the two zillion idiotic guys with similarly stupid profiles they learned how to write, I assume, by reading "Snappy Profile Writing Tips" courtesy of match.com. To wit: "You are clean shaven...you love dogs (particularly the ones that bark 25 hours a day and jump on you with muddy feet in an attempt to sniff your genitals)...You wear the pants but can be sensitive and you know how to treat a woman like a woman...You can be serious but also have a playful side. For example, you'll play with my dog's balls after he's finished sniffing yours."

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