

Fall 2004

RelNet

By David A. Kenny

Our Association has been in secret talks with Barry Diller to assist in the development of a new cable network channel, the Relationship Network or RelNet. I have received access to an IARR secret memo from the special advisory board for RelNet programs for RelNet. (I want to thank my confidential source. His identity will remain anonymous to my death; I will only say that his last name rhymes with a four-letter word.) Here is a sneak preview at their sensational fall line-up:

Safe Sex in the City:

Four glamorous 30 somethings (sorry, none related to a famous relationship researcher) find themselves, every week, in strange situations with a banana.

Mathematically Correct Survivor:

Castaways provide round-robin peer ratings on a 7-point, 35-item, scale. Scores are corrected for the bias in judgment due to missing data; should partner variance not exceed 30% of the total variance the contestants must eat food leftover from a Paul Popiel infomercial.

Dr. Phil and Dr. Cindy:

After being interviewed by a dynamic duo of experts, the audience guesses the attachment styles of cohabitating couples who

live in homes pulled by large vehicles.

The Altos:

Tony Alto, chairman of a New Jersey Studies Department at Hoboken State College, conspires to give tenure to his teenage son, his therapist, and an aging stripper, and avoids being censured by the Dean, who is his mother.

Art Aron 360:

Bridge crossing, circles moving toward each other, and bodies undergoing an fMRI -- you never know what to expect from this wacky Californian gallivanting throughout New York City.

Not Everybody Loves an Editor:

The editors of relationship journals explain why they rejected your paper.

Wait, Wait, Tell Me:

Couples receive results from pregnancy tests that are based on a random number table.

Antique Roadie Show:

Rebecca Adams interviews washed-up members of touring rock bands who are waiting for liver transplants.

The Singing A-mae Chef:

Inept chefs sing karaoke to get people to feel sorry for them and then the people pretend to like their disgusting food and horrible voices.

CSI UCLA:

Dissecting just a single response to an item on a scale, the degree of loneliness is determined.

threatened to arrest anyone cast in the lead of “Touched by a Mullah.”

The Simpsons:

Hosted by O. J. and Jessica Simpson, famous politicians are DNA-tested to determine if they are bastards.

The King as a Queen:

Elvis impersonators, in drag, give accounts of their most recent relationship breakup.

American Idle:

Procrastinating reviewers make up their feeble excuses to authors for why they are late with their reviews, as they are suspended over a tank of unfed alligators.

Sadly it looks as if the following two shows will never be aired:

Domestic Mole:

A reality show in which a normal family is turned into a dysfunctional one by introducing a mole family member, who enables self-destructive behaviors, escalates negative behaviors, and makes faulty attributions. The producers seem to be unable to find any normal families.

Touched by a ____:

Children recount how their lives were dramatically changed after encounters with religious teachers. Producers are having difficulty with the show’s name; they cannot use “Touched by a Priest” for obvious reasons, “Touched by a Rabbi” would have to be changed to “Touched by a Zionist Rabbi” because of UN pressure, and US Attorney General Ashcroft