

DAILY BULL



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Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Tradition is what you resort to when you don't have the time or the money to do it right.
~ Kurt Herbert Alder

Those Crazy Run-Ons

By Nathan 'Invincible' Miller
~ Daily Bull ~

RUN-ON SENTENCES!? EGADS, MY worst nightmare. No really, if there's anything I can't handle as Editor-in-chief, it's mind-bogglingly horrid never-ending sentences. I had to resist fixing Liz's article, if only to keep her intent intact. Unfortunately, others don't do it on purpose, pushing me ever closer towards joining an insane asylum. Here is a brief snippet of what usually transpires as I fix up particularly messy articles.

- Read through, pausing to consider comprehension by a vast audience (you).
- Find run-on sentence.
- Read run-on sentence.
- Read run-on sentence.
- Read run-on sentence backwards.
- Read first half forwards, second half backwards.
- Bonk head off desk.
- Scream.

...see Neverending... on back



Top 10 Things to Do When Sick

By Jeremy 'Mr. Sunshine' Loucks ~ Daily Bull

NOW, SEEING THAT PLAGUES AND OTHER INFECTIOUS calamities have been attacking Tech recently, it seems like a good time to publish this list. No, this is NOT another article about Swine Flu. Although that sort of falls under the broader category of things that make you ill. Like seeing Jack Black without a shirt on...

I myself was recently sick, so this list could apply to me! So if you saw me do any of these over the past week, you could be next!

1. Catch up on the TV shows you're missing due to Statics homework. I mean, I heard House was in a mental hospital! When did this happen? And Ozzy Osbourne guest-hosted Monday Night RAW? *brain explodes*

2. Go to Wal-Mart and cough on all the produce. Misery loves company baby! Since 99% of Houghton shops there, you can hope to get school canceled!

3. Turn your speakers to maximum and

start blaring Disturbed's "Down With the Sickness!" If you're going to be sick, you might as well rock out to a song about it right? Oh wait, that's not what it's about...

4. If you have a girlfriend/boyfriend/goat/Bill Clinton, ham up how sick you are! If they really care, they'll be over all the time, cooking you soup, doing your homework, and generally making you feel better. Heck, depending on which parts of you are sick, they might just make you an extra-special get well surprise! On the other hand, if they avoid you constantly, it may be time to think about dumping their free-loading butt.

5. Hold a "guess that flu-idi!" game with your dorm/housemates. Whoever wins avoids having you sleep in their bed when they're at class. Remember to trick them; seminal fluid and snot can look a lot alike sometimes.

6. Decrease the surplus population.

...see Spread the Gems! on back

Dude: Meteor Shower.
Place: The Sky.
Time: Tonight. Be there!



You could also watch *Osmosis Jones*! What is the verb of osmosis? Osmose? It osmosed? Osmosized? Osmoosed?

Talk and Talk and Talk and Talk and....

By Liz Fujita ~ Daily Bull

I WAS SITTING IN THE DAILY BULL OFFICE THE OTHER DAY, NOT DOING ANYTHING OF PARTICULAR consequence, when a message appeared on my Meebo messenger client from the Daily Bull's very own Nathan 'Invincible' Miller, who proclaimed that he was fed up – sick and *tired* all the way up to his ears – with people writing enormous, unbreakable, run-on sentences in their articles that he had to sit around and painfully, painstakingly edit/reword in order to make them grammatically sound (since you can't very well run an article where one sentence runs longer than most paragraphs should) before I can use them in issues.

In response to this, I've taken it upon myself to annoy the living hell out of Mr. Invincible by writing an article about run-on sentences entirely in run-on sentences with varying amounts of punctuation and yakking (plus copious amounts of parenthetical asides, which I think will help me achieve my goal of writing an entire article in only 4-5 sentences) just for the sake of seeing if he'll try to edit them down to scale, or, preferably, get so frustrated that he gives up, allowing me to flaunt the victory of having gotten away with such atrociously lengthy sentences.

Wikipedia just told me that, it turns out, using a semicolon (that is the punctuation mark that looks like it's winking at you) is a cheap and dirty way to avoid run-on sentences, since they are designed to fluidly join things together in the same way that "and" or "but" do, so I suppose my

...see Filibustering? on back

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mm, mmm, yummy...

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...Spread the Germs! from front

Not quite sure what that means? Walk into a nursing home and make sure to hug and shake hands with everyone you meet there. Think of the money you'd be saving the insurance companies!

7. If you illness gives you diarrhea, get a little creative in the bathroom. See if you can spell out your name on something, or see how far you can launch it (if it's the explosive variety). And just so you know, I have a housemate that manages to hit the back and underside of the toilet seat. I'm sure someone out there can do better than that!

8. Write Daily Bull articles! One needs a unique mindset to write stuff like this, and that mindset usually occurs when you're sick (physically or mentally...). What better time to express your feelings about the world than when you're

feeling miserable!

9. Get drunk off of cough syrup! Winos do it all the time, so why not you? Plus, this is the one time you can easily get away with it. That crazy cough isn't going to go away by itself, is it? Drown it with a few bottles of Day-quil and let the fun times begin!

10. Actually rest, relax, eat well, and let yourself get better. But with all those other things to do, who would actually want to do this?

So there you have it. Ten tried and true things to do when you're sick. However, if your roommates evict you for spooging and making them guess what it is, don't blame me. You're the sick one after all! 🦄



...Filibuster? from front

use of those two words is technically cheating – as is my use of parentheses, dashes, and all that stuff - but I can't help but wonder if using them excessively ruins the fact that they're supposed to make run-ons die out, kind of like how taking seventeen ibuprofins to cure a minor headache will make it worse, rather than better, by putting you in the hospital.

I wonder how many of the presidential speeches given over the years have included huge run on sentences, because if you think about it, politicians are some of the most long-winded, chatty Cathy people under the sun (which is probably how they get elected in the first place, filibustering until Congress just gives in and does what they say), second only to Larry King, most English professors, and the pastor in my hometown whose homilies/sermons could easily last twenty minutes longer than necessary – a skill I'm sure he cultivated with never-ending diligence in holy man school – and put the entire congregation to sleep.

The more I think about it, I'm pretty sure that I'm completely cheating by using hyphens, etc., to lengthen my sentences, though I prefer to think I'm just cultivating a special breed of excessive writing in which the goal is to write one hundred or more words in a single homogenous string of inanity, a skill that I am ashamed to admit I accidentally practiced by – I'm ashamed to admit this, so brace yourselves – being a LiveJournal user back in the days when fanfic writing challenges included “drabbles” of 100 words or fewer (not necessarily all in one sentence, but it was always fun to try).

Silly me - I never thought watching Lost and shipping Charlie/Claire would count for anything. 🦄

...Neverending from front

- Put a period somewhere that looks logical.
- Erase words to help make it readable.
- Erase more words.
- Erase the whole sentence and start over.

The screaming part is my favorite, because that's when I know I have lost all ability to think and have reverted to a truly sub-human state. Not sure what I mean? I'll attempt to demonstrate a failed attempt at a sentence.

If you thought Liz's were bad, in reality, they actually made sense compared to some I've seen, (as opposed to hers they usually didn't make sense, or utilized forms of grammar unknown to science, or English teacher's,) but those were almost always made by either accident, listing things to infinite, not realizing that periods were invented for a reason, even though sometimes they could be replaced by commas and misusing vital sentence structure elements to convey there thoughts precisely.

True story my friends. The longest one I've had since I've been keeping track has been 80 painful words long, which for me constitutes an entire paragraph. The average is somewhere in the high 60s, and anything above 60 usually makes the cut for being classified as “evil.”

One time, there were back-to-back 74-word long run-ons. During a

period of mental haziness brought about by a power cord wrapped around my neck, I had a vision: someday, in the distant future, Tech would make everyone take a writing class.

With matte borders encapsulating an idyllic classroom scene, we'd all happily learn proper grammar and sentence structure. Our loving professors would gently pat us on the head when we'd done a good job, smiling adoringly out at me as I watched from beyond the fourth wall. When I started regaining oxygen flow to my starved brain, they all waved to say goodbye. Adieu for now my friends, I hope to see you soon!



This is the song that never ends...

I have a feeling the future may be much more distant than I'd hoped. As far as I know, Tech doesn't have any plans to force good English skills upon us, so professors and EICs alike must suffer from pre-college level writing abilities. Yay mediocrity!

As terrible as a writing class sounds, it would have its benefits. Think of how often you're going to be writing someday. Grants, memos, business deals – they've all gotta be written. I'm sure that if someone did a survey of big shot CEOs, most of them would have fairly good writing skills. After all, if you're gonna fast talk your way to the top, you better have the fast-talking documents to back you up. 🦄



Daily Bull

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