

## DISSING AND HOCKING

### More Amusing Bloopers and Snappy Comebacks

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For Valentine's Day, I've extracted from my vast archives an item that I haven't previously deployed as a blooper.

It appeared on October 31, 2005, in a community weekly newspaper, now defunct, called *New York Resident*. A review of a cabaret-type CD included this précis: "The songs are mostly standards: 'Straighten Up and Fly Right,' 'I've Got My Eyes on You,' 'Too Close for Comfort,' 'Solitude,' 'There'll Be Another You' . . ."

Gosh, what a romantic sentiment! Googling turned up the CD and the real title of that last number: "There'll Be Another Spring." The reviewer's mistake, I suspect, was to conflate it with a different old song: "There Will Never Be Another You."

To make up for recycling that ancient clip, here are some more recent media bloopers and anomalies—all from the past few months—followed, as always, by presumably witty retorts.

*The New York Times*, January 7, 2013:

"Ms. Mills added that Starbucks was aware that many people from small businesses come through Starbucks cafes and often do their work there, so offering the [credit card] reader in its cafes was a good fit."

▶ **Now, now. No need to be so self critical.**

*The Wall Street Journal*, Corrections & Amplifications, October 26, 2012:

"A chart with Wednesday's Work & Family column in Personal Journal listed nine of the weirdest excuses for missing work. The chart incorrectly said there were 10 excuses."

▶ **What's your excuse?**

*The New York Times Magazine*, November 25, 2012:

"But I was attracted to my new field because psychotherapy was about as far away from marketing as you could get. . . . Hocking my clinical wares like a Toyota dealer felt bizarre. . . ."

▶ **It's amazing what pawnbrokers are willing to accept these days.**

TCM movie listings, December 20, 2012:

“*Barbara Stanwyck: Fire And Desire* (1991) Synopsis: Barbara Stanwyck’s multi-faceted career reveals uncanny reflections of her off-screen life.”

▶ **Who could have guessed?**

*The New York Times*, Corrections, November 14, 2012:

“A music review on Saturday about the Metropolitan Opera’s new production of ‘Un Ballo in Maschera’ by Verdi, which includes as part of the set a large mural of the mythological Icarus falling from the sky, misidentified the maker of the wings Icarus used to fly. They were made by his father, Daedalus—not by Icarus.”

▶ **It’s an old story: “My dad let me down.”**

*The New York Times*, December 15, 2012:

“Also, it’s a good idea to make sure the oven cooks at a true temperature. . . . To test the oven, she suggests buying a cake mix and baking it to the exact recipe. If it’s overdone or underdone, you’ll know your temperature is off.”

▶ **Or maybe you could just use a thermometer?**

*The Wall Street Journal*, op-ed, December 10, 2012:

“High standards for entry into the [teaching] profession should apply to all prospective teachers, like they apply to lawyers.”

▶ **Ten demerits for using *like* instead of *as*.**

*The New York Times*, letter to editor, January 8, 2013:

“There is another expression, ‘out of the mouths of babes,’ which implies an utterance of wisdom from someone not expected to have it. ‘Babes’ suggests only the young, but we often apply this phrase to anyone who surprises us with wisdom.”

▶ **Thanks for that unnecessary explanation. We’re surprised you knew.**