

A REVIEW *by Larry Jackson*

Do we really need Eurovision?

This Saturday night, as many as 100 million people will be watching the Eurovision song contest. An enormous amount of money is spent on the contest each year. Everyone agrees that most of the songs aren't that good and the show itself is in questionable taste. Is it time to give up on Eurovision?

- 5 This ridiculous contest doesn't serve the purpose for which it was created. When Eurovision began in 1956, Europe was still recovering from World War II. The goals of the contest were to help bring the nations of Europe together and to choose the best new popular song. However, the contest hasn't done anything to
10 strengthen European unity, and it isn't a good way of choosing high-quality music either. While the contest was once judged by a panel from each country, today television audiences in most countries vote by phone. In both cases people tend to vote for countries that they like rather than for the best song.



- Eurovision contestants are allowed to sing in any language they choose, with the result that many songs are in English. Rather than finding a song that represents their country's culture, the contestants are focused on winning. Not only that, but performers don't even
20 have to be citizens of the country that they are singing for. This makes the contest far less interesting, and it misses the point of having different countries compete with one another. Perhaps we could justify having this contest if it helped unknown singers build successful careers in entertainment. However, that doesn't usually happen. There have been a few exceptions, such as Celine Dion, a Canadian who sang for Switzerland in 1988, and the
25 Swedish group Abba, who won in 1974 with the song *Waterloo*. While there have been a couple of performers who were already big stars when they entered the contest, such as Olivia Newton John and Cliff Richard, most contestants are second-rate singers who never become well known.

- Amazingly, some countries still care about winning, especially the smaller countries. For
30 example, during communist times, Eurovision was a symbol of liberty for the Estonians. Their television shows were censored and Eurovision wasn't broadcast on Estonian TV.

In the 1990s Estonia became a democracy and began participating in Eurovision. When they won the song contest in 2001, people ran out into the streets to celebrate.

- However, in my mind, the pride of small countries is not a good enough reason to keep this
35 contest alive. Let's stop wasting money and find another way to determine what the best popular songs are.

ROW B (40 points)

Questions

- (1) What is the purpose of this review?
 to trace the history of Eurovision
 to praise Eurovision
 to question the importance of Eurovision
 to explain the importance of Eurovision

(3 points)

- (2) A major event had just ended in Europe when the Eurovision began. What was it?

(4 points)

- (3) According to lines 5-16, one of the goals of the first Eurovision contest was to
 Choose the most popular European country
 make Europe more popular
 choose the best new popular singer
 make Europe more united

(2 points)

- (4) Complete the chart (12 points)

Year	Event Referred To
1956	
	Abba won Eurovision
1988	
	Estonia won the contest

- (5) Abba and Celine Dion were special. How? (4 points)

- (6) For Estonians during communist times, Eurovision represented(lines 29-31)

fun
 money
 freedom
 joy

(2 points)

- (7) What was the Estonians' reaction when they won Eurovision? (4 points)

- (8) The writer is opposed to Eurovision. Name three reasons for his opposition.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(9 points)

ROW B

Vocabulary (20 points)

1. It was most kind of you to lend me your money.
2. A pharmacist, or a druggist, is a person who prepares and sells medicines.
3. She was unusually the best candidate.
4. It's possible that they didn't tell us where they were going. I wonder where they went, and why they kept it a secret.
5. Are you sure enough to drive, Jim?
6. She shed at her daughter's wedding. Those were tears of joy.
7. He is really cheap. He never buys the drinks when we go out.
8. Even at the age of 100, she still had all her faculties.
9. I will always refrain lying to you about the money.
10. Burge McCall and his wife Venita had lived together most unhappily for three years and four months.

Writing-Burge McCall (15 points)

Write a letter from Mrs. McCall to a friend. In this letter she informs her friend of Burg's death and explains how their marriage developed from an unhappy one to a happy one.

1. הם רוצים שנלך למסיבה.

1 They want ^{us} ~~me~~ to go to the party.

2. כשתהיה גדולה היא תקנה אותו.

2 When she grows up, she will buy it.

3. אתמול ישנתי עשר שעות.

3 Yesterday I slept 10 hours.

4. כשהוא הגיע הביתה היא ישנה.

4 When he came home, she was sleeping.

5. הסרט יגיע בקיץ.

5 The movie will arrive ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ the summer.

6. היינו באילת ביולי.

6 We were ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ Eilat in July.

7. המסיבה מתחילה ב-9:30.

7 The party will start at 9:30.

8. ראינו אותו ביום שלישי.

8 We saw him on thursday.

9. אתם נולדתם ב-1992.

9 You were born ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ 1992.

10. אם אתה תקרא את הספר, תהנה ממנו.

10 If you ~~will~~ read the book you will enjoy it.

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In the 1990s Estonia became a democracy and began participating in Eurovision. When they won the song contest in 2001, people ran out into the streets to celebrate.

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2. to praise Eurovision
- ✓ 3. to question the importance of Eurovision
4. to explain the importance of Eurovision

(3 points)

(2) A major event had just ended in Europe when the Eurovision began. What was it?

✓ The major event was world war II

(4 points)

(3) According to lines 5-16, one of the goals of the first Eurovision contest was to

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2. make Europe more popular
3. choose the best new popular singer
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✓ Estonians reaction was to run into the streets to celebrate

(8) The writer is opposed to Eurovision. Name three reasons for his opposition.

- ✓ (1) An enormous amount of money is spent on the contest each year.
- ✓ (2) Eurovision doesn't serve the purpose for which it was created
- ✓ (3) Most songs are in English rather than finding a song that represents their country's

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