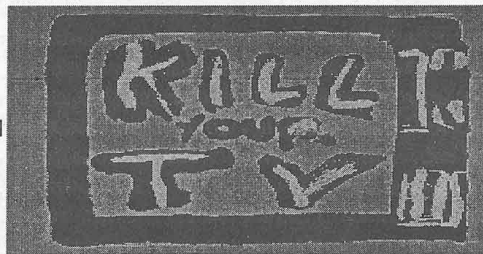


Further thoughts on the Electric lobotomy

by Sam Pulda

A couple of weeks ago, a couple of freshmen placed a perfectly functioning television in Red Square and proceeded to beat the shit out of it. At the time, although I didn't actually witness the event because I chose that exact moment to grab a drink in the U.C., I scorned the action because it seemed to be an immature and rather silly way to make a statement. But I have recently thought about the incident, and now I think it was a good idea and a fun thing to do.

Television sucks, in my opinion. I came to this conclusion a couple of weeks ago while I was watching the NCAA tournament. I believe it was the UMass-Arkansas game, and UMass was winning by about 20 points with eight minutes to go, and there was another game going on that was tied with a minute left, and stupid CBS decides to stay with the UMass game for some reason, and then changes its mind and splits the screen, showing both games at once, and now I couldn't see anything at all without sitting right in front of the TV. So I

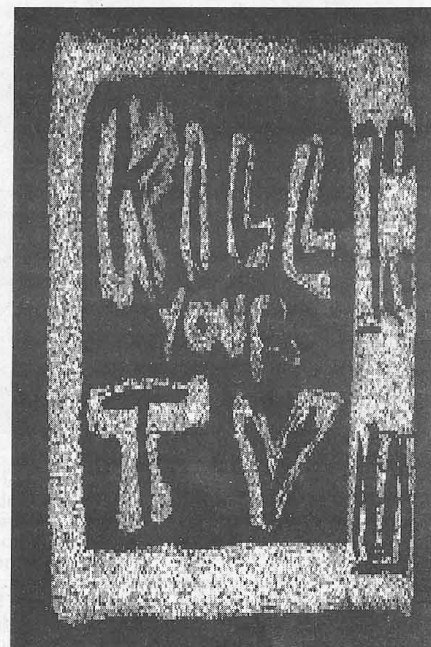


picked it up and threw it across the room.

Actually I didn't really do that, but I felt like it. I now believe that television is some form of instrument conceived by the devil to make us all listless, unthinking, unproductive vegetables. 88% of all things shown on TV is pure bullshit, I've decided. It's controlled by these powerful corporate types competing for the best time slot or the best ratings or a leg up in the advertising race, throwing millions of dollars around as if it were nothing at all.

Look what's on during the day. Game shows in the morning. Soap operas in the afternoon. Ridiculous talk shows in the evening (I won't even get started on Ricki Lake, I could go on all day about her). All horseshit that doesn't enrich our lives, broaden our minds, or even provide for some good old meaningful conversation. Granted, at six there's the nightly news, but that's usually depressing and besides you can read all about it in the newspapers.

Then there's prime time. Oh how I hate prime time. Stupid sitcoms like "Home Improvement," those made-for-TV movies that nobody watches and star washed-up people like the moms from "Family Ties," and "Growing Pains," and the prime time soap operas. Please spare me from the likes of Kelly and Valerie, or Allison and Billy... It's actually rather amusing, the



people who watch Melrose religiously and can't think of anything better to talk about than who fucked who on Melrose Place. It's funny how everyone on those shows is rich and beautiful, and always have these incredibly exciting and adventurous lives. In these programs, every little thing is either stereotypical or politically correct, both hard to stomach.

The other 12%, however, isn't bad. I enjoy watching "E.R." because it's more interesting than everything else, and it's well-acted and there's always something happening. The Discovery Channel is kinda neat sometimes. And then there's the Simpsons, bar-none the funniest show on TV while making fun of every stereotypical character imaginable.

So anyway, while I was sitting there all pissed off, squinting to see one of the basketball games, I started making a list in my head of some better things to do instead of watching TV. Here's what I came up with...

- doing homework (but I thought I'd consider my other options)
- hacky sacking (it's fun, and it relieves stress)
- sleeping
- eating
- listening to music
- scratching (underrated)
- having sex
- writing about why I don't like television... but now I'm done, so I guess I'll go watch MTV or something.

