

TELEVISION, DRUG OF THE NATION
by Disposable Heroes of
Hiphoprisy

One Nation under God
has turned into
One Nation under the influence
of one drug

Television, the drug of the Nation
Breeding ignorance and feeding
radiation

T.V., it satellite links
our United States of unconsciousness
Apathetic therapeutic and extremely
addictive
the methadone metronome pumping out
a 150 channels 24 hours a day
you can flip through all of them
and still there's nothing worth
watching

T.V. is the reason why less than ten
percent of our
Nation reads books daily
Why most people think Central America
means Kansas
Socialism means UnAmerican
and Apartheid is a new headache
remedy

absorbed in it's world it's so hard
to find us
It shapes our minds the most
maybe the mother of our Nation
should remind us
that we're sitting to close to. . .

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T.V. is
the stomping ground for political
candidates
Where bears in the woods
are chased by Grecian Formula'd
bald eagles

T.V. is mechanized politic's
remote control over the masses
co-sponsored by environmentally safe
gases
watch for the PBS special

It's the perpetuation of the two
party system



where image takes precedence over
wisdom
Where sound bite politics are served
to
the fastfood culture

Where straight teeth in your mouth
are more important than the words
that come out of it
Race baiting is the way to get
selected
Willie Horton or
Will he not get elected on . . .

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T.V. is it the reflector or the
director?
Does it imitate us or do we imitate
it
Because a child watches 1500 murders
before he's
twelve years old and we wonder how
we've created
a Jason generation that learns to
laugh
rather than abhor the horror

T.V. is the place where
armchair generals and quarterbacks
can
experience first hand

the excitement of video warfare
as the theme song is sung in the
background

Sugar sweet sitcoms
that leave us with a bad actor taste
while
pop stars metamorphosize into soda
pop stars
You saw the video
You heard the soundtrack
Well now go buy the soft drink
Well, the only cola that I support
would be a union C.O.L.A. (Cost of
Living Allowance)
On Television.

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Back again, "New and Improved",
we return to our irregularly
programmed schedule
hidden cleverly between heavy
breasted
beer and car commercials

CNN ESPN ABC TNT but mostly B.S.
Where oxymoronic language like
"virtually spotless" "fresh frozen"

"light yet filling" and "military
intelligence"
have become standard

T.V. is the place where phrases are
redefined
like "recession" to "necessary
downturn"
"crude oil" on a beach to "mousse"
"Civilian death" to "collateral
damages"
and being killed by your own Army
is now called "friendly fire"

T.V. is the place where the pursuit
of happiness has become the pursuit
of trivia
Where toothpaste and cars have become
sex objects
Where imagination is sucked out of
children
by a cathode ray nipple
T.V. is the only wet nurse
that would create a cripple

Television, the drug of the Nation
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On Television . . .

<< QUESTIONS >>

1. What does “United States of Unconsciousness” mean?

2. Does “apathetic” mean...?

_____ indifferent; unfeeling; unemotional
_____ interested; engaged; active

3. What “shapes our mind the most”? How?

4. What does “sound bite politics” mean?

5. What does “fastfood culture” mean?

6. Choose the response that best answers the questions: What is the song trying to “prove”? What evidence does it provide?

a	The song is trying to prove that TV is bad for us because it makes us not read books and not understand things. The song tells use that 10 percent do not read books daily and that we do not understand words like Apartheid. This means that Tv is bad for us.
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b	<p>The song, "Television, Drug of the Nation," is explaining how TV is making us "mindless" because TV gives us information rather than knowledge and makes us lazy and "stoned" about what we see.</p> <p>Firstly, the song tells us how we have access to lots of information, yet we do not really comprehend or understand what we see. The lyrics states, "less than 10 percent of the nation reads books daily," and "people think... Apartheid is a new headache remedy," which means that we are provided with ideas, such as books or Apartheid, but we do not spend the time to look deeply into the ideas to truly understand things or ask questions about what we see. Secondly, the song tells us how we are becoming a lazy and stoned population. The lyrics state that we live in an era, "where imagination is sucked out of children by a cathode ray nipple/T.V. is the only wet nurse that would create a cripple," which means that we do not have to actively use our imaginations, thus creating a "crippled" or "stoned" viewer. We are being raised in an era that does not promote personal relationships with playful and creative interactions, rather, we are being raised by an electronic device that apparently gives us everything we need.</p> <p>Drugs are bad because they make us dependent and slaves to their effects. Drugs kill our minds, and if TV is a drug, then we can conclude that TV is making us slaves without mind.</p>
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List three (3) reasons why the option you chose is the best response.

1

2

3

7. Is TV the reflector or the director? Explain.

8. Does TV imitate us or do we imitate TV? Explain.

9. Identify a metaphor in the song. What does the metaphor mean?

10. Is TV creating an apathetic audience? Explain. Write a response similar to the better response for question 6.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.