



## CATV ... Boon or Bane?

At any given moment one can flip through the channels to view:

2 News Reports - Ad nauseam. Updates (if any) every 15 minutes or hour.

Sculpted 'do's. HEAVY eye shadowing on 40-ish babes straining to look 25 and lotts "insider" jokes betwixt royal selves.

1 Worthy flick - from the 1940's. British. Highly stilted speech that plays sweetly on cultured ears not appreciative of jammin' hi-jinx, rap, and hip-hop.

1 Travelogue - Genuinely entertaining, but that's all. As if they really suspected a normal watching-folk had bucks enough to book a flight to such a shangri-la. (Or even would if they did.)

3 Cooking shows - all featuring disaster dishes which most would never fix or buy for themselves, let alone serve to guests. (As if anyone ever cooked for guests anymore)

4 Aerobic workouts all on a carpeted dais or circular pad to step on or lie on, with handheld springs or rubber bands, and some hunkie or barbie shouting in Lawrence Welk cadence while fondling their "pecks" or "glutes".

3 Idiot episodes - each with 30-somethings or approaching mid-life crises, each with the obligatory doctor diddling his patients, each with obligatory secret phone calls, secret trysts, secret accounts, secret friends, and all of them meeting in secret to tell Steven that Shelby was worried about Brandon. (Shheess! Get a life! Even if only one of them to live.)

8 Refinance Ads - If you never hated commercials, now is the time to start. The world is overflowing with money .. there is no shortage! These DiTech and wannabee ads only want to gain possession of your house by loaning more and more and more and more ....

2 Infomercials - for the kookiest kollection of useless gew-gaws or goop. Is it possible that real people spend money on those things? And, how much are the audiences paid to make such asses of themselves on nationwide small screen? Seen the one which hypes the \$5.00 BBQ sparker for \$90.00 in 4 e-z payments? It'll cure every pain you got - a real numb-er!

4 Local notices - each with appropriate red, white & blue time and temperature banners ... all correct, I guess, and outdated bulletins telling about the cake sale of last week in Walkabout Mall.

2 Educationals - One not on yet, but shows time & temperature O.K. The other about mating habits of tsetse flies in off seasons.

3 Bible thumpers- each with at least two gold rings and watches, open scriptures balanced on one palm, and gesticulating with the other, interspersed with pleas for 'faith seed' while offering a tape or video of the week, and imploring you to join 'Esmerelda and me' on a luxury wine n' cheese tour of Moses' Vineyards.

3 Music Videos - of guitar-wielding (not playing, just wielding) air-heads with sunglasses or cowboy hats, or both, and while gyrating in wild circles atop mountain buttes, in the middle of some Mojave Desert road, or in an empty Nashville warehouse.

4 Talk Shows - Count 'em! Each a clone of the other. All with problem-perception-problems. Live ... on TV ... she likes 'em two at a time. Live ... on TV ... grandma "tries out" all of grand daughters boyfriends before giving stamp of approval. Live ... on TV ... he murdered my mom & dad & ate our baby, but he needs me now more than ever

so I can't leave him. Live ... on TV ... I'm fat and can't stop raiding the icebox after midnight, so here I lay with tears in my ears.

3 Kid Kartoons - of assorted inane, poorly-drawn, jerky-moving characters no more funny than a poker chip windchime.

Whatever happened to Mighty Mouse, Little Lulu, and Captain Marvel?

9 Commercials - of jumbling and blinking swatches of color depicting faces (Boo!!) on cereal boxes, toilet paper rolls, & cleaner chemicals, all with voices extolling the virtues of poisonous foods, tawdry junk, & sickening useless female hygiene products, but especially ads for 'enhancing' male or female erotica.

9 Commercials - of basically artistic, cute, even genius displays (Yay!) for hawking products like small cars and pizzas. Some are downright funny and make you pay attention to products.

2 Weather Bunnies- either male or female, complete with sculpted hairdos, all in 3-piece suits and jewelry, obligatory pulsating charts, and some inane jokes and rhetorical advice about umbrellas.

2 Sports Events - at such crowd-pleasers as swamp buggy meets, tractor pulls, ah buddy fishing holes, all hosted by a pair of Curt Gowdy wannabees. Also ... championship skeet shoot with "star" TV supporting actors like ... you know, um, Randy somethin'.

2 Congress shots- Olympic yawn-inducing action in the chambers of our congress while some self-important bureaucrat prattles about pork futures before empty seats.

2 Comedic events - of excerpts from shady stage acts or grade-Q horror movies, hosted either by gumball machines or cowboy-booted offspring of some movie star has been.

2 TV Sales events- Viewings and sales of rings & watches worn upon middle-age spotted hands, or brooches & pins upon freckled cleavages, all decked out in ghastly fabrics from the runways of Elsa Klensch.

Plus, while flipping thru the channels, you have a 90% chance of landing on the first of a long string of those commercials mentioned above.

THIS ... is what you pay for at \$\$\$\$\$ plus per month? Who needs it!?