taalat waaam aayiiinay nainahag

Television now part of family

By Charlie Mustachia

almost a member of the family in know it." the modern American house- Networks don't allow for inform of entertainment.

reaches the age of 12, his TV- imitate something," she said. watching hours will more than "Things that are different don't double his classroom hours. At get much of a chance.' the age of 75, the man who one-half hours of television per day will have spent seventy thousand hours in front of his College Station area, cable TV

University and television adver- weekday. tising specialist, said the televitypical living room.

By the time an average child reaches the age of hours will more than double his classroom hours.

ment is, 'How can we best arrange the furniture so that we can watch the television?"

When the location of the cable When the location of the cable keeping a record of viewing hook-up determines the living hours. She said it is best to select room seating arrangement, the shows you want to watch Strong said, the viewer chooses and mark them in a television the artificial life that television provides over the reality of human interaction. Dr. Emily Davidson, Texas

A&M psychology professor and

rather than watch a specific show; they sit there and watch Battalion Reporter show; they sit there and watch The television has become whatever's on and the networks

hold. It is used as a babysitter, novative programs, Davidson sleep-inducer, nightlight, com- said. Because shows are cancelpanion and sometimes even as a led quickly, new shows must be successful within the first few By the time an average child weeks. "The best thing to do is

Critics agree that "M*A*S*H" watches the average three and provides a higher degree of in-one-half hours of television per tellectual stimulation than most TV set — that's eight years of makes "M*A*S*H" available more than once a day - avid Bill Strong, lecturer in speech fans can see three consecutive communications at Texas A&M "M*A*S*H" episodes each

"There are certain shows we sion has taken top priority in the see as an art," Strong said, "and when you look at a piece of art 'First thing we say when we over and over, you gain a greamove into a new house or apart- ter appreciation with the repetition of experience."

But Human Behavior magazine's Ann Nietzke said repetition and non-selective TV viewing may be turning us into

Humanity perhaps invented a monster we can't control, Neitz-12, his TV-watching ke said. "In fact, the monster may very well be controlling

> Because television viewing is sometimes considered an addiction, many viewers speak of "cutting down" on their watching habits or "weaning" their children from television.

Davidson advises the "addict" to cut back slowly on total time in front of the TV set, guide. Then watch only the shows you mark.

Strong goes a step further. "Put your television up in a children's television specialist, said, "Most people decide they're going to watch television A DePaul University clinical cabinet or a closet." he said. "so

psychology graduate student suggests parents put locks and meters on their television sets to has help break their children's TV habits. In an article in the Houston Chronicle, Patty Rooney-Rebeck said, "Unless you watch the meter tick by, you

> Critics agree that "M*A*S*H" provides a higher degree of intellectual stimulation than most television shows.

really don't realize exactly how much time you're spending in front of the tube.

Talk show host Dick Cavett said evenings, weeks, months and years of sitting in front of the television passively staring at the glowing box will "numb the brain

The phrase "fireplace syn-drome" describes the relaxed, hypnotic effect felt by viewers ile staring at the television.

Strong said he suspects that sitting in a dark room staring at the 300,000 bulbs of flickering light, resembles a psychologist's hypnotic strobe effect. "It's not the programming that makes people watch watch television the programming is terrible - it's the technology itself."

Whether television is seen in a hypnotic or concious state, the habit of watching TV is hard to break because televisions are everywhere.

Many bars, nightclubs, re-staurants and washaterias now have televisions. Some spots even have the large screenprojector televisions. Of course, no one is obligated to watch the screen while eating, drinking or

washing, but, the fact remains. the screen is there.

If "fireplace syndrome" is a reality, then diners, drinkers and even laundry washers might not have real control over their perception Neitzke called watching tele-

vision "a very private act." She said Michael J. Arlen's statement concerning "what we do in these half-lit rooms of ours, on our own, our bodies sprawled before the set, our thoughts neither communicative nor far away" reveals that, while TV is a public medium, it is often "as private and myste-rious as masturbation."

Strong said TV is like a sedative. "It allows you to escape," he said. "You have to think to read a book; you have to think to write; you have to think to carry on a conversation. You don't have to think to watch TV."

Davidson said college students tend to become disgusted with the time they spend - or - watching television more often than nine-to-five workers. When faced with a choice between hitting the books and staring at the tube, many students choose the latter. "College students have a lot to do," Davidson said. "The average worker sits down at seven to watch TV and he does so until

10. He really doesn't feel too bad about that. Davidson said television is so much a part of our culture that without doing more research. she would never quit watching TV altogether. She said because she doesn't watch "Saturday Night Live" many jokes and conversations with friends go right over her head.

'If a lot of people around you spend time talking about what's that's the result of television. on television, you're out of those conversations.

Strong agrees that a positive effect of television is its ability to give millions of viewers a com mon experience, thus bringing them closer together.

He said the only problem emerges when we watch TV only because we've been conditioned to do so or because every one else does so. "People watch 'Saturday Night Live' not because they are rewarded by it every week," he said, "but be cause something funny might happen this time." Does TV effect behavior? Do

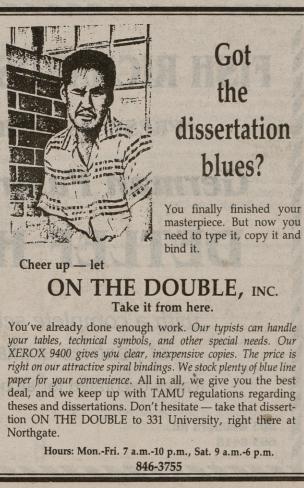
technological aspects of television have hypnotic effects on viewers? Is television addicting? David Loye, a writer for Psychology Today magazine, said if you ask these questions you'll get a vehement "yes" from some and a vehement

> The phrase "fireplace syndrome" describes the relaxed, hypnotic effect felt by viewers ·

"no" from others. "Whichever position they take," he said, they're sure to agree on one thing: they really can't be sure

Barbara Walters, in a U.S. News & World Report inter view, said TV isn't perfect but has its positive aspects. "People (Americans) know a great dea about a surprising variety of things," she said. "In great part,

"Could it (television) do more? Yes. Is it a beast? No.'



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AFTERNOON

4:30 HBO THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER

5:30 HBO RASCAL DAZZLE EVENING

6:30 SELF PROTECTION: PRO-TECTING YOU AND YOUR CHILD FROM RAPE 8:00 2 G THE SACKETTS Tell

fends off a pair of vengeance-seeking brothers, while Tye and Orrin cope with a bigot and a friend-turned-enemy. (Part 2)

13 13 29 MASADA Increased Judean attacks and pressure from Rome force General Silva to mount an attack on Masada by building a ramp up the side of the mountain, a task further complicated by the desert heat . and the disapproval of his beloved Jewish slave, Sheva (Barbara Carrera). (Part 2)

jazz and percussion ensembles of the University of Houston; Ellsworth Milbern and the Cambiata Soloists from Rice University; the University of Houston Opera Studio, featuring Diane Kessling and Bruce Ford D TV AUCTION

D TESTIMONY OF TWO MEN Forrest), returning from the



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Masada Part 2 	The Sacketts Part 2 "	M.A.S.H. "House Calls	Curtain! Great Performances	M.A.S.H. "House Calls	Masada Part 2 	KAMU Auction 	Masada Part 2 	The Sacketts Part 2	Testimony Of Two Men Part 1	
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Civil War, discovers that the woman (Barbara Parkins) he loves has married Adrian Fer-rier (William Shatner), a wealthy aristocrat. Marjorie and Adrian have two children. Jonathan (David Birney), one of them becomes a doctor and proposes marriage to Eaton's illegitimate daughter (Linda Purl). 9:30 HBO MELISSA MANCHESTER IN CONCERT

11:30 B CROSSROADS / SOUTH AFRICA Black resistance to South Africa's oppressive white government and its system of racial discrimination is docu-mented. Former ambassador to the U.S. Andrew Young critically examines America's current policies on South Africa.

Monday Sports EVENING 11:00 3 WRESTLING Host: Paul Monday Movies AFTERNOON Premiere) Martin Eaton (Steve 3:00 3 *** "The Three Faces Of Eve" (1957) Joanne Woodward bunch-a-b'loons: Send balloons instead of flowers! Great party decorations! Birthdays • Wedding Receptions Bridal Showers • Formals Create a festive atmosphere for any occasion! Call Weekdays 1-5 p.m. 696-4179 Party Rates, Too

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David Wayne. During treatment for a split personality, a neurot-ic woman manifests a third under hypnosis.

EVENING 7:00 HBO "The High And The Mighty" (1954) John Wayne. Claire Trevor.

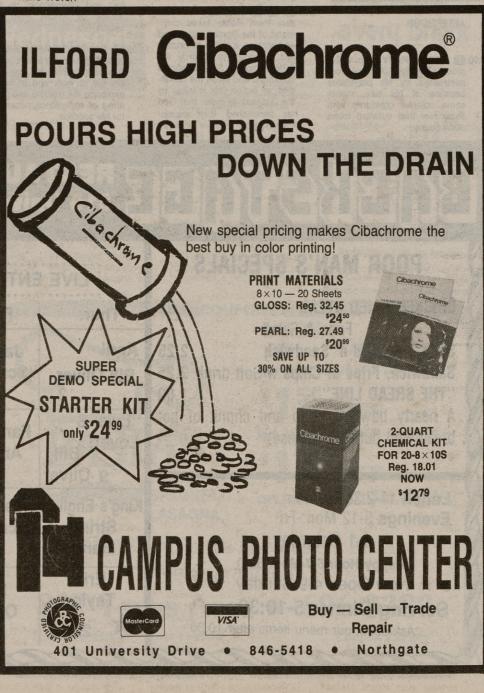
10:30 HBO "Tom Horn" (1980) Steve 11:00 7 *** "God Is My Co-McQueen, Linda Evans. In early 20th-century Wyoming, a boun-ty hunter hired by a group of

ranchers to track down rustlers

employers, 'R

Pilot" (1945) Dennis Morgan, Dane Clark. Col. Robert E. Scott has action-packed adventures.

is set up for a hanging by his 12:10 HBO "The Europeans" (1979)



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