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evision.

What TV has Wrought Among Youth

-S. I. HAYAKAWA. new president of San Francisco State College, in a speech to the American Psychological Association in San Francisco.

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The present generation of young people is the first in story to have grown up in television age. If you were n in 1938, you were 10 ars old in 1948 and had aldy lived through the most portant formative years, so at in all likelihood you missd the experience of having a television set for a babysit-

But a significant proportion had their imaginative lives, their daydreams, their expectations of the world created by television. Is it any wonder that these children, as they grew to adolescence, often turned out to be complete strangers to their dismayed

An important fact about television-regardless of its sponsorship-is that you can have no interaction with it. A child sitting in front of a television set gets no experience in influencing behavior and being influenced in return.

Having a puppy is in this

hours in passive contemplaents, or strangers.

Is there any connection be-

with their friends, parents or anyone else not of their immediate clique. The militancy of young peo-

learn? ple, both white and black, eager for social change is often They learned that social accounted for by saying that problems are never complicathey have lost faith in the slow processes of democratic

ted; they are simply the conflicts between good guys and discussion and decision-makbad guys Bad guys can never ing. This argument seems to be reasoned with-you can highly questionable. It is only shoot it out with them. my impression that militant If the bad guy confronts you young people, far from being with superior force, you can "disillusioned" with democralay your body on the line and tic processes, are totally ungo down fighting. acquainted with them, since

Young people also learned they are rarely shown on telfrom commercials that there

If young people did not is an instant, simple solution may at this point reject or re-not learn of the complexities to all problems; Acid indiges bel against the culture and of the democratic process tion can be relieved with Alfrom their years of viewing television, what did they. ka-Seltzer; unpopularity can be overcome by using Ban; feelings of sexual inadequacy can be banished by buying a new Mustang, which will transform you into an instant

Casanova. The world makes all sorts of demands the television set never told you about, such as study, patience, hard work, and a long apprenticeship in a trade or profession, before you may enjoy what the world has to offer.

Disillusioned young people

its "materialism"-not realizing that what, they are rejecting is not the culture as such, but merely the culture as depicted by Madison Avenue and the networks.

Even as they reject the culture as they understood it through television, they miss

the pleasant fantasies they enjoyed as children when they turned on the set. So they "turn on" in other ways.

Having scornfully rejected the notion that they can achieve instant beauty and radiance with Clairol, they es

pouse the alternative view that they can achieve instant spiritual insight and salvation with LSD. The kinship of the LSD and other drug experiences with television is glaringly obvious: Both depend upon "turning on" and pas-sively waiting for something beautiful to happen.







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