

AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

It is time, I think, that some student of television (a doctoral candidate looking for a thesis subject?) does an analysis of TV viewers.

It has become increasingly apparent, to me at least, that there are Viewers and then there are Turner-Onners. They are not the same and even within those two categories there are variations.

For example, not all Viewers turn on the set or select their own programs. Somebody else turns on the TV and they watch whatever is on, never flipping the channel selector or turning off the set. They are what I call Passive-Active Viewers.

Then there are those who not only turn on the set, but decide in advance what they want to see, turn the dial decisively as many as 50 times a night to see what they are missing and turn it off when they've had enough or the station signs off for the day. They are Active-Active Viewers.

The set Turner-Onners are another breed of animal. Like the

people who climb mountains, they turn on the set because it is there. Once it is on, they forget it. They may have their eyes trained in the direction of the appliance but they neither pay attention nor require anything more of it than a certain level of noise.

The Turner-Onners are a diverse bunch. For some the TV is quiet background for conversation providing much the same service as Muzak in the restaurants. For others it is semi-successful distraction a la the semi-classical music the dentist plays while you squirm in the chair.

And also included in the Turner-Onners are those who use the TV as an articulate alarm clock. Let's see, the network news just began; it must be 6:30. Bowling for Dollars just signed off it must be 7:30 and so forth.

Numbered among the Turner-Onners also are those who need a tranquilizer and find that the boob tube is cheaper, safer and at least as easily accessible as Valium. They turn it on and fall asleep. Here the Turner-Onners vary a little. Some turn on basketball and fall asleep, others soap opera and still others talky crime shows. Some snooze best when the mayhem is loud a la "Starsky and Hutch" and "Police Woman."

Also classified as Turner-Onners are those who turn the set on for their infants still in their naps and pets. The latter then must be counted as Passive-Actives.

It must be remembered, of course, that few of us are purely one or another. Rather we cross over from time to time. Last night for example, the male Turner-Onner switched on basketball while I read.

He fell asleep while I continued reading. He woke briefly, announced he was going to bed early to compensate for the slumber he lost in switching over to Daylight Saving Time, and inexplicably switched to Channel 21 before stumbling up the stairs.

Unwittingly I lowered my book and began to watch as the title and credits for the newest offering on Masterpiece Theater flitted by. The next thing I knew 45 minutes had gone by and I was well into the first episode of the series about the Guthries titled "Sunset Song." I had become a Passive-Active. It was another whole hour later before I became a Turner-Off and stumbled off to bed myself.

Winners Listed In Competition

Four string students have been chosen as the graduate string quartet for 1976-77 at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. Violinists Nancy Bracken and Sandra Goldberg, violist Jeffrey Irvine, and cellist Anne Fagerberg formed the quartet to compete for this award.

They will enroll next Fall as fellowship students in the graduate program of the Eastman School. They will coach with and assist members of the Eastman string faculty including members of the Cleveland Quartet, who join the Eastman string faculty in September.

The quartet was chosen in a competition at the Eastman School on Monday, April 19. Judges included members of the Cleveland Quartet, Millard Taylor, Eastman string department chairman; John Celentano, professor of chamber music; and Jon Engberg, assistant director for academic affairs.

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ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

In the past two years using any number of methods I have managed to take off a couple of pounds. I am confiding this because I read recently that dieting is the number one topic of conversation in this country, bar none.

And as anyone knows who has ever dieted even semi-successfully, the minute your friends have ascertained you've managed to reduce a little, the questions come thick and fast.

So here are some of the most asked questions and the answers I hand out. Most of them are true.

How did you do it?

I began eating peanut butter for breakfast every morning and the rest of the day just seemed to take care of itself.

Why peanut butter?

It's my favorite food and it's loaded with protein. You don't have to scramble it, poach it or shirr it. Or add milk, sugar and eat it out of a bowl. In fact you can spoon it out and eat it with your eyes closed which suits me just fine that time of day.

What does your husband think of you now?

He thinks I eat too much peanut butter.

Are you ever hungry?

Any night I go to bed without my stomach growling I count as a lost day.

What was the hardest part?

Ignoring the kids' handouts.

What handouts?

They save all their black jelly beans, jujubes, Good 'n' Plenty, and gum drops for me.

What do you do for exercise?

I used to jog around the tract at 6:30 a.m. until the neighbors figured out who the creature swaddled in a red sweat shirt and tight slacks was.

What do you do now?

I dance in the living room with the lights off every night to the Bay City Rollers.

Who are the Bay City Rollers?

A rock group whose music our six-year-old discovered and which I once abhorred but now love passionately.

What step do you do?

I flail a lot.

How much have you managed to lose?

2368 pounds.

Really?

No, but I should have with all that self-denial.

Did you use any special psychological aids?

Yes, adverse stimuli.

Explain, please.

Everytime you feel like taking a piece of chocolate layer cake with your right hand, grab the roll at your waistline with your left.

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