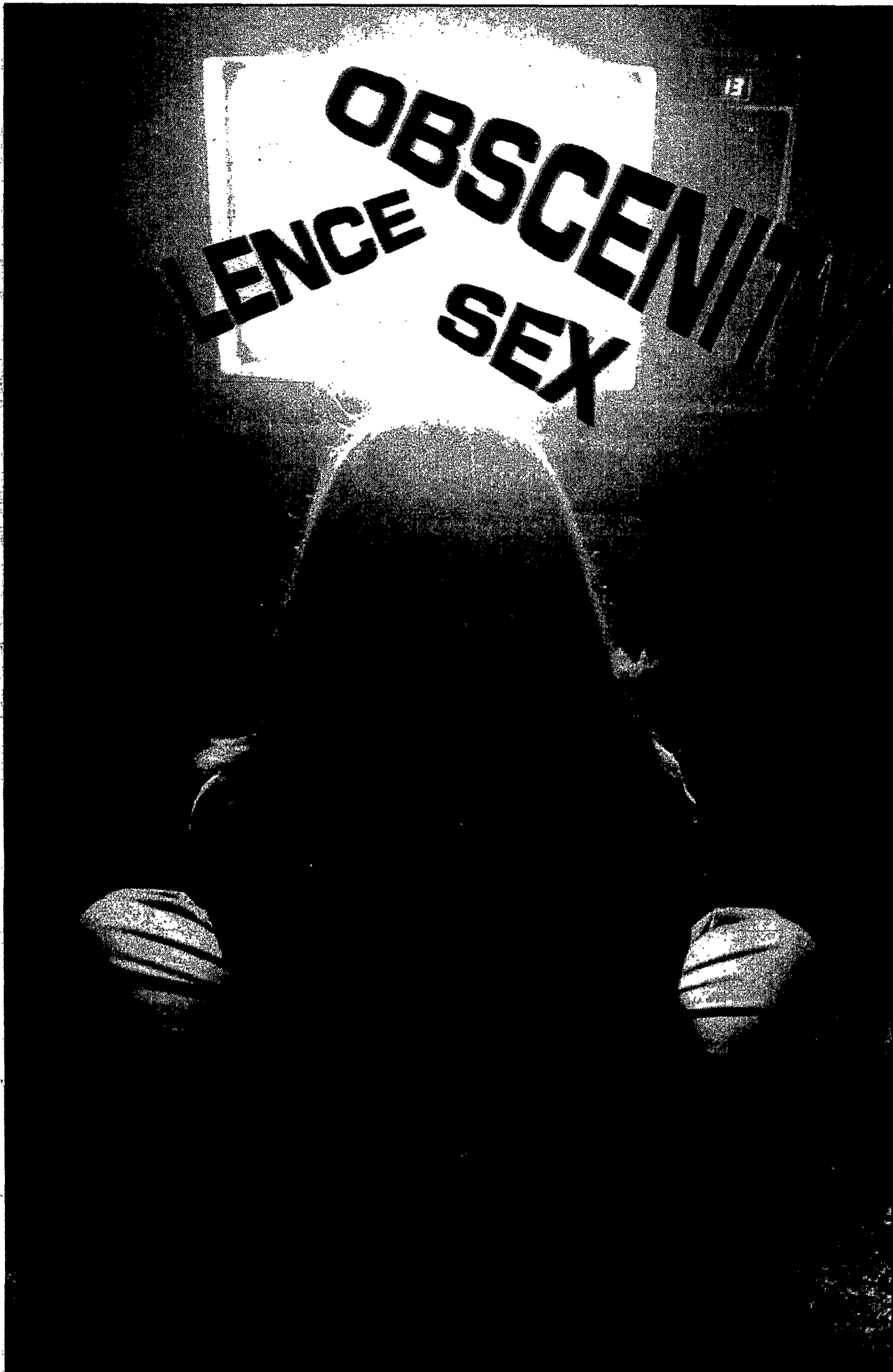


STAFF WRITER MIKE LATONA
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER S. JOHN WILKIN

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open-minded audience.
"Teens can get bored a lot, and if you sit down in front of the TV it gives you something to do. It's very possible to get sucked into shows you usually don't even watch," remarked Kari, 15, from St. Lawrence Church in Greece.
It's also possible to get sucked in too far, John has discovered.
"It gets in the way of school and some social aspects," said John, 15, from Sacred Heart Cathedral. "A friend will say, 'No I can't do that because I have to watch this TV show.' Or, 'Let me call you back because I'm watching TV.'"
Joe Sheppard said he enjoys sports-casts and music videos along with comedy shows such as "Friends." However, he said his time in front of the tube is steadily dwindling as he gets older.
"I watch it less because I'm out with my friends," said Joe, 15, from St. Mary's Church in Auburn.
Even so, there's hardly a teen alive who doesn't have a designated time slot when he or she *must* be rooted to the set. And, depending on the ratio of TV viewers versus TV sets in each household, the battle for viewing privileges can become fierce.
Case in point: Carrielynn and Billy. Their home has cable hookup to only one TV, so clashes are frequent.
"Mostly our squabbles are about sports versus soaps," Billy said.
Carrielynn said her brother usually wins out because "my dad steps in and says 'I want to watch sports.' So I resort to network TV."
John noted similar struggles exist in his own household, even though he, his father and three younger brothers all enjoy sports.
"We all like different teams," John explained.
John added that his mother also jumps into the fray every now and then: "She likes 'Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman.' It's a given that she has to watch that, or we get yelled at."
Kari joked that her family's disputes "never turned into brawling, but there were fights" over the TV.
However, Kari noted, things have calmed down because all three of her older siblings no longer live at home.
"Now I don't have to worry about somebody coming in and stealing the remote," she remarked.



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