

Turn Off Your TV Week is April 23-29! Yow! Dear Readers, Fabulous! We'll help you get ready for it.

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You know how the TV says a show is "brought to you by Ramiac"? The reverse is really true: The TV show brings you to the advertisers.

TV shows deliver you to whichever company pays for the ads on TV. It's a lot like your TV turns your living room into a factory. The product that's being manufactured is the you the advertisers want you to be.

Give your real you a chance to bloom. Turn off your TV this week, and see what happens to your life.

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new way of looking at TV.

SO WHAT:

This is a test for college students who are studying communications. It teaches you how much work your brain has to do to put technical events together to create a story or a message. You create them from these events, and that is a lot of work. It's one reason why TV can eat up so much time. You get spaced out putting the events together.

By the time you graduate from high school, you will have watched an average of 350,000 different TV commercials. All of them are about changing you into someone who will buy a thing.

For the grown-ups: What color is Prilosec? If you know, TV has changed you.

By itself, this is not a bad thing. It becomes rotten when we don't pay attention to that as a powerful force in our society and culture.

TV advertising works so well that it created a version of you that knows exactly what most of these symbols mean. TV ads have created a new language that lives inside your brain.

P.S. from Beakman: We also think if'd be tremendous if you even furned off our show, Beakman's World, for a week.



WHAT YOU NEED: TV - Your sweet self - clock OPTIONAL: VCR WHAT TO DO:

Watch TV for 10 minutes in a new way. Instead of paying attention to what the story is about, pay attention to how it's told, commercials and all. Count the number of technical events in 10 minutes.

A technical event is anything that happens on purpose on TV. Edits, words on the screen, music, sound effects and zooms are all on purpose and are all technical events. You might want to use a videotape because the truth is, these events happen much quicker than you can count. When you're done, you will have counted into the hundreds. You'll also have a

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