

JUSTIN FIRESTONE

Don't turn that dial! Yeah, right

Here's a riddle:
"I become worse with greater variety from which to choose, I waste more of your time than anything else and I look like a television."

The answer: a television. (The great social equalizer, the boob tube, the idiot box and the telly are all suitable substitutes for the answer, too).

If you're any fan of television at all, you've noticed that you've got more channels to choose from as of late, and more are on the way. A lot of these new channels are garbage, and the old channels are becoming terrible.

To prove this, I spent all of this week conducting a somewhat scientific survey of all the cable channels I receive.

The survey began with watching Channel 1. Not much happens on this channel. A lot of fuzz and snow was difficult to watch for a long period of time. I quickly turned to Channel 2.

The reception on Channel 2 is much improved compared to Channel 1. Channel 2 doesn't have any real programming on it; it's just a listing of what's on. But whenever I turn to it to see what's on, say, Channel 11, I always just miss it and have to wait three minutes for Channel 11 to scroll around again.

Channels 3 and 11 are godsend, because they air Oprah and Letterman. Channel 11 magically turns into a home shopping channel around 12:30 a.m.

Channel 4 is the James Bond and Clint Eastwood channel. Channel 4 is my favorite because I can always find a good action movie on.

The first of the boring channels begins with Channel 5. Along with Channel 5, the other boring channels are 10, 12, and 21. These channels have a bunch of words running across their set to really raunchy Muzak. Pretty boring, aren't they?

Channels 6 and 7 are Omaha stations, but they surprisingly have bet-



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ter local news than Lincoln's channel. These two channels are essentially the nutty situation comedy channels, with "Seinfeld," "Roseanne," "Home Improvement" and "Blossom."

My favorite show, "The Bozo Show," is on Channel 8. I usually don't get up early enough to watch it, but I am awake to watch the other main attraction on Channel 8, Cubs baseball. On no other channel can you hear a drunk man do play-by-play for a baseball game.

Channel 9 has the best new show, "Animaniacs." Yakko, Wakko and Dot Warner are the three funniest characters since Bugs Bunny.

The span of channels from 12-21 are 10 channels that never have anything on to watch. Nothing to watch, that is, unless you like to watch George Takei selling "Star Trek" memorabilia, Ernie Chambers filibustering or local people making fools of themselves on the public access channel.

Channel 22 has one good show, "Crossfire." Watching two grown men yell at each other is one of the best ways to spend a half hour.

Channel 23 is THE sports channel. No other channel comes close. I can watch baseball, football, hockey and basketball. Afterward, I can catch all of the highlights from the day's sporting events.

You can find out what's going on in the world on Channel 24 and get a pretty inaccurate forecast from Channel 25. Channels 26 and 27 rerun all the old shows you never watched when they first aired, like "Murder, She Wrote," "MacGyver" and "Get

Smart."

After watching an hour of Channel 28, I was nearly convinced that Kurt Cobain was my new leader and that I should do whatever MTV told me to do. Luckily, I found a blunt object to hit myself in the head with and snapped out of it.

From Channel 29 on up to 50 are the special-interest channels. If you like courtrooms, traveling people, open-heart surgeries, World War I, the world of insects or Don Francisco, you'll love this span of channels.

Finally, you've got the premium channels, which play one new movie every week. This movie gets played over and over and over again, until you can memorize all of the dialogue.

To summarize all of this, there's really only a handful of channels that are even close to being consistently full of good programs. This is because there are so few programs that are any good.

Technology will soon be able to bring us zillions of channels, but will it really matter? I remember when there were about 10 channels to choose from, and I could always find something to watch. Now that there's more than 40 channels, television has become diluted.

The worst aspect is that it takes longer to flip through all of the channels to decide that there really is nothing on anymore.

Firestone is a sophomore economics major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

JAY CRUSE

Send Madonna to Capitol Hill

President Clinton, I have one small suggestion for you. No, this isn't about Chelsea again.

I understand you are looking for another Supreme Court nominee after your No. 1 choice, Senator George Mitchell, left you high and dry.

George would rather stay in the Senate and provide whatever help he can in passing your health reform bill. A noble pursuit, indeed. You're probably going to need it.

It was a refreshing change to see someone withdrawing themselves from consideration, instead of being nominated and letting 100 members of Capitol Hill dig up their closeted skeleton bones.

Harry Blackmun opposes a litmus test nominee who would replace all his opinions on important issues. Well, my choice for the job definitely shares Blackmun's penchant for being the center of controversy.

President Clinton, I understand the last time you went through this process, you looked past your A-list to nominate Ruth Bader Ginsburg. This time I'm asking you to look past your A, B and C-lists. Way past.

No, not your gal pal, Barbra Streisand. She's too busy gouging elite urbanites with her \$350 concert ticket prices.

I have the answer for you, Bill: Madonna Ciccone.

Aside from a nice mouth-washing and a swift kick in the rump, which my mother and a million others would gladly provide, all Madonna needs is a change of pace. The reviews are in, and her David Letterman performance inspired the adjectives "pathetic" and "pitiful." Her latest single "I'll Remember" is just listenable, with mass-produced lyrics not inspiring the dance hysteria her early ditties did. She'll never ride off quietly into the sunset, so let's put her to use somewhere else in the public eye.



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Razorback fan, here's who benefits from this plan:

- You and Hillary would definitely profit (sorry, Hillary, no pun intended) from this. You'd get credit for nominating the third woman and second Italian-American to the high court. If she keeps up this fitness frenzy, your influence could be felt in the nation's capital for at least another half a century. And if that isn't enough, Madonna's nomination would definitely draw attention away from this whole Whitewater mess and cattle futures crap.

- The personality press, including the National Enquirer. The current disagreements about Ginsburg interrupting Sandra Day O'Connor would surely become minuscule. And imagine Madonna and Clarence Thomas working together, day after day.

- The fashion industry. Imagine the profits Calvin Klein and Giorgio Armani could make on their Madonna-inspired spring lines of black robes. Of course, waif models would lose prestige. Those black robes hide everything.

- The measurable reputation of our nation's education system. There would be no more of these ridiculous polls stating that 34 percent of Harvard students cannot even name one Supreme Court Justice. Now, if we could just do something about that little illiteracy problem.

- The federal deficit. Madonna would continue to pull people in the

way she has for the last decade. Quite simply, you could charge admission to court hearings. Pay-per-view, even.

- Conservative support. Madonna's opinions on several benchmark right-wing issues are well-documented. Abortion? "Papa don't preach but I made up my mind/I'm keeping my baby." School prayer? "When call my name/it's like a little prayer." And Bush' buzzwords, family values? "Keep it together in the family/in your heart and your soul/don't forget that you family is gold."

- Liberal support. C'mon, we're talking about Madonna here.

Who, dare I say, would be against the plan?

- Law schools and professors. Once the "brightest minds of this nation" see that a law degree isn't really required to gain a seat on the high court, they wouldn't waste time and money getting law degrees. There would be fewer lawyers.

Basically, all of humanity benefits from this plan.

It's just an off-the-wall suggestion, Bill. Take it or leave it. I understand that confirmation hearings would be difficult, but please don't leave her high and dry. We're not talking about the attorney general, after all.

Stranger things have happened. A movie actor became a wildly popular leader of the free world.

Cruse is a senior advertising major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

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