

Re: Are we protected from Junk Food Corporations?

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"MikeL" <MikeL@elnet.com> wrote in message
news:3rd8j0lened2a110ob8aaho88bmbbm10p0@4ax.com...

- > *Well maybe we should ban televisions since many parents use them as*
- > *babysitter. You certainly can reduce your child's exposure to this*
- > *propaganda by creating a life other than watching TV 10 hours a day.*

Well, the problem is that things are not always that easy.

For instance, I always had the TV in my bedroom as a kid. So, I could pick whatever I wanted to watch, and whenever I wanted to. If I wanted to watch to watch rated movies, I could. Not because my parents where careless, but because they thought I was mature enough to enjoy the freedom. So, I saw plenty of movies on TV, including some I was not supposed to see as a kid, like Clockwork Orange. But this never prevented me from moving around. I was an avid biker as a kid, as that was how I would go to school daily. I was also a good walker, taking a 40km walk with my dad was always a pleasant thing to do. As an adult, I watch TV from time to time, but I can do without it. Mostly, I will watch when there is something really good on it, mostly serials (Sopranos, Six Feet Under). I don't bother with movies, I just go to the cinema or rent them. I watch it for around 1 hour a day.

On the other hand, my girlfriend was educated like you. She was only allowed to watch a part of the evening movie with her parents, and then, off to bed. As an adult, she doesn't watch TV a lot more than I do, but when she does, she is completely hypnotized. Like being in trance; you can talk to her and she won't even notice. Or she will stop in the middle of a sentence, and never finish it.

So, sometimes, direct solutions lead to weird results. Having unlimited and self-regulated access to TV meant for me that it was just another tool to access information. It lost any kind of magical value it could have had to me. On the other hand, it has remained a magical and fascinating item to my girlfriend.