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Hi John, Christie, guys-

Here' this week's TV column. Do I send it to you guys and the editing department? Let me know when you can. Talk soon,P

Paris Hilton: She's Bad for You!

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I secretly wanted to write an article about the Welsh singer Duffy this week because she's far cuter than Paris Hilton, but unfortunately she's not doing anything really TV-newsworthy right now. So, MTV, La Paris and the Barrio 19 production group have recently created an unholy televised triumverate that has really started to make my limbic system twitch a bit. And I bet its started to make you feel a bit itchy as well.

Barrio 19, as far as I can see, is a production group who either works for, or has been contracted by, MTV. They create short, very whipcrack-style exciting short video pieces about kids who entertain themselves with minimal, or no-energy using equipment. In their video clips, teens from all over the world perform dazzling physical routines with jump ropes, yo-yos, skateboards or, when absolutely nothing else is available, they jump off of low buildings or just run around in circles. It is an unbelievably impressive display of how clever and bright street kids can be when put into situations when they are away from video games, DVDs and other mindnumbing electronic, gimmicky stuff.

Working in concert with Barrio 19, the clever MTVs have also begun a serious green campaign to limit societal usage of electricity. Their awareness campaign, entitled "switch off" strongly encourages viewers to use fewer electric appliances and help save the planet's environment and resources by abstaining from oversue of electric machinery. If that were the end of our cutesy little story of eco-conservation and human-condition wonderfulness, everything would be ducky, but it's only the beginning of a very convoluted tale.

The thing that really scares me about MTV is, what seems to be, a terrible oversight in their current mentality and programming choices. It is an absolute essential, in any business, to understand one golden rule: The world runs on the common man. With this idea absent from the mindset of program creators, disaster is just around the corner. I'm an open-minded guy and believe in absolute freedom of speech, but MTV is currently playing with dynamite with their programs such as *Paris Hilton: My Best Friend Forever*, and *My Super Sweet 16*.

In the Paris Hilton show, drooling, wannabe-zillionaire, teen-toadies endure any whimsical humiliation Ms. Hilton can devise for the them, merely for the chance to gain her approval, and be near her personal glow of absolute economic freedom. Phaeroh-esque, lavish parties are thrown, outrageous sums of money are spent, and absolute disregard for personal accountability

and responsibility are flaunted by Ms. Hilton and her coterie of assumed, would-be friends. In *My Super Sweet 16*, moneyed, arrogant, occluded teen-slimeballs outspend the GNP of small countries for their lavish 16th birthday party celebrations. These shows are nothing but monuments to blind, ugly pornographic consumerism for the ego-gratification of immature, haughty, rivalrous people who honestly don't even remotely understand the value of a dollar. So, why should the MTV people tell the common man, like me, to play with my yo-yo, save energy, not use so many electric gadgets and be good to the Earth? So Paris Hilton and a few other rich twits can pay no attention to the rules? So there's more juice to play with for the people who already have everything? That's what it looks like MTV is saying to me. I have to believe they are playing a programming game they can't win. There are simply too many people in the world who have nothing in this life and one day the Paris Hiltons of this world will be strung-up by their entrails if they're not more careful about the image they project to the masses. Again, I repeat, the world runs on the common man, and I hope MTV chooses to remember such in thing in their future programming decisions.