

Maybe it's time to invent the P-chip, says Sean Leslie

Television in the toilet

I'm concerned that my recent columns on television could make me look like a couch potato. As I'm about to launch into my third TV tirade of the year, please note that I am shaking off the winter doldrums and getting out of the house every now and then. Sometimes I even walk to the 7-11 for my bag of chips.

I really wish people would stop peeing on TV. Not actually on TV's, of course, but on TV shows.

In fact, there's a growing trend towards using bathrooms as a setting in sitcoms and dramas, complete with performed, um, calls of nature. It's making me nauseous frankly, and I think something should be done about it.

Back in the good old days (the '70s), showing someone actually relieving himself in the can would have been unthinkable, even though the Fonz used a bathroom as his office and you could hear Archie Bunker flushing the toilet.

But today's daring television directors are running out of ways to push the envelope, so they're bringing that one aspect of human behaviour that had previously been kept behind closed doors right into our living rooms.

ER has a lot of bathroom scenes, but they're usually backdrops for heroically brooding main characters, or violent assaults.

NYPD Blue is where it gets really nasty. The show that uses words still not found in most family newspapers is equally unafraid of a little bathroom noise. Don't the cops in that precinct have a couple of conference rooms they can use to discuss their cases?

Why all the whizzing and the flushing? I wish they'd just go interrogate some more guys and get the hell out of the can.

Ally McBeal has the most disgusting of all concepts - the unisex washroom, shared by all staff members (and happily at that). None of the lawyers seems to mind having to retreat into a stall while their male and female colleagues stand just two feet away having a conversation (or making out, since it's Ally McBeal). Personally, I think washrooms segregated by

sex are as necessary as running water.

I'm not even going to get into The Simpsons or South Park.

But being a big believer in freedom of speech, even for the Tom Greens of the world, I don't really want TV shows deprived of their right to depict bathroom life.

I guess I'm really looking for the same options given to parents who worry about their kids seeing too much sex and violence on the tube.

That's right - it's time for the P-chip.



Sean Leslie

New dumping station opens

A new sani-dump has opened in Prince George, located at the transfer station site on 18th Avenue and Quinn Street.

This sani-dump is an

expanded facility, and the attendant at the transfer station will be available to assist users.

The transfer station and sani-dump facility will be

open seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and can be accessed through the existing toll gate entrance off Quinn Street. The fee for use is \$2.

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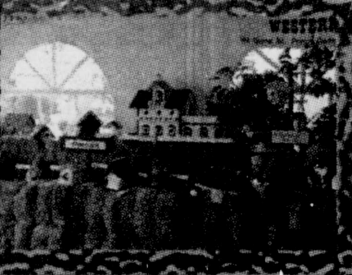


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