Guest Column/Alex B. Rosen

Videos increase isolation

The pop song said: "Video killed the radio star," but it didn't kill as many people as was supposed to kill video. It's time we start considering what to do.

Video monitors pervade our society. For example, Twenty Chinsors now have a video jukebox. Its small screen regularly entrees almost half of the patrons. Video monitors have become an essential part of what is now considered a pleasant social atmosphere. Virtually every disco has some sort of video system. But often show music videos while playing completely unrelated songs.

It surprises me that in a crowded bar, so many people concentrate on a 21" screen. Wouldn't it be interesting if those gathered at such a place actually talked to each other?

Most people enjoy watching fast-moving video sequences more than watching the continuum of life in the area around them. They don't realize that the people who create video know exactly how to paralyze picture. I'm not talking about starting smashing video jukeboxes. They don't even realize in our society. Everyone seems to know exactly how to paralyze picture. I'm not talking about starting smashing video jukeboxes. They don't even realize in our society. Everyone seems to something about this.

Fast-moving video sequences I strongly disagree with them. Presence of video monitors in so many places gathered at such a place actually screens are mesmerizing a large number of people in social situations.

I strongly disagree with them. People starting at video monitors is a symptom of a larger problem in our society. Everyone seems to have stopped caring about the big picture. I'm not talking about large screen televisions. I mean the planet that "we live on.

One of the most serious problems that the human race faces is the lack of understanding of other people. Unfortunately, it is not likely that we will gain the necessary understanding from video. People just don't care about what is really happening most of them are too busy paying attention to a video screen while ignoring everything else in the environment. They would rather be trapped in some contrived video world than take a look at the real world. Maybe they are scared of what they might see if the TV turned off.

While television is billed as a great communication device, it is mostly being used to convey less information. It has been very effective in minimizing the communication of important ideas that might help us all live together

I don't think there is that much can be done to get rid of television everywhere. I do not even advocate that. Television is not totally bad. It is the pervasive presence of video monitors in social situations that are unacceptable. We might be able to do something about this.

Maybe you're not ready to start smashing video jukeboxes and televisions at parties, but you should at least consider not watching them. Instead, talk to your friends or meet some new people. You might even learn something interesting.