

Your turn.

a neo-Stalinist attempt to institute "democratic realism" is in some ways more chilling than the violence epidemic itself.

In this violent society, the way that television can improve reality and act responsibly is *not* to shy away from dealing with violence at all but to make viewers aware of the incidence and consequences of violence. By threatening censorship, reformers are actually rewarding broadcasters for abandoning their responsibility both to entertain and to educate the viewing public.

America has become a shockingly violent place, and people feel the need to do something about this violence. Censoring network television seems an easy way out of the dilemma. But at best this will not solve the problem, and at worst it may exacerbate it by creating a false sense of security and accomplishment.

Dwight D. Eisenhower once offered listeners at Dartmouth sage advice on a different form of censorship: "Don't join the book burners. Don't think you are going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed." We can try to close our eyes to violence by effectively banishing it from our television screens, but the epidemic will only flourish in the darkness.

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Alien-Abduction Work Honored

Coverage of the Ig Nobel ceremonies (January-February, page 12) was incomplete. Harvard's own John Mack was awarded an Ig Nobel prize in psychology for his remarkable work on alien abductions, but that joyous event was passed over by your reporter, Craig Lambert. Let's see, who wrote that credulous piece on alien abductions in your March-April 1992 issue (page 6)? What a coincidence!

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Holyoke Center Vulgarly

I've heard and read many reactions to the new Holyoke Center shopping mall (November-December 1993, page 87, and January-February, page 59). Only two were favorable: the first from a designer of the project, the second from Harvard Real Estate extolling the social worthiness of the tenants, all local, 40 percent women or minorities. The rest of us seem agreed: the Shops by Harvard Yard mall is not merely bad, it is truly awful.

Just when the award-winning master plan for Harvard Yard's landscaping is

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