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Through a series of 40 illustrations this book takes you on two long journeys: from an object on earth into outer space, and from the same object to the nucleus of the sodium atom. The journey to outer space starts at a point on earth five meters from a young girl sitting in a schoolyard in a town in the Netherlands. In a series of 25 successive drawings, with each successive scale one-tenth of the one before, we go straight up into the sky seeing everything at ever increasing heights and fields. We see Europe, the whole earth, the moon, neighbor planets, the sun, and then beyond to neighbor stars, the milky way, until we leave our own galaxy and see it shrink to a small spot. We are left looking at the specks of infinite universes beyond.

In order to make the second journey, which focuses on the hand of the same girl in the schoolyard through the surface of her skin to the sodium atom, we must arrive back on earth. To do this the scale must be increased rather than decreased, by 10. In a series of 15 successive drawings, still increasing the scale by 10, we pass through skin tissue bacteria, viruses, molecules, X-rays, cosmic rays, to the sodium atom at ten million million magnification (where a man's height drawn to scale would be about the diameter of the solar system). One picture is worth 10^3 words.
Guerilla Television by Michael Shamberg and Raindance Corp.; Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, $7.95 hardcover, $3.95 paperback.

Though the author's style is often blunt and adolescent, he shows brilliance in analysis of the mess into which American Civilization has fallen, contributed to by the crassness of commercial media. The book scans thinking and visions of Americans who have grown up in mediated America cognizant of its shortcomings and blessings and who continue to search for ways to foster individual expression and creativity in an environment which at present is not acceptant of novel change and innovation. The presentation of some possible solutions to the dilemma of growing frustration in our land is illuminating. This book offers a concise manual for the decentralization and democratization of the video medium.

Television The Business Behind the Box by Les Brown, Harcourt Brace Javanovich, hardcover $8.95.

This brilliantly written book reveals the personalities, business and programming processes determining the bill of fare of broadcast TV in the USA. This book is a must for people who want to better understand the TV entertainment and information monster. Highest recommendation.

Basic Electronics, prepared by Bureau of Naval Personnel; Dover paperback, $3.50. A comprehensive introduction to the subject with plenty of illustrations and written in plain, concise language.


The Television picture can provide a highly efficient medium for print, graphic and image information distribution of great ecological validity than other media e.g. print on paper, or image on film. (See Scientific American, Sept. 1971, "Information and Energy." ) The demand for video information transmission will be increasing in the future e.g. picturephone, weather maps, newspapers, etc. This volume comprises the proceedings of the Symposium on Picture Bandwidth Compression at MIT, in April of 1969. It deals with the theory, investigation, and practical application of means of optimization of picture transmission systems.

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