

Help! Xbox has kidnapped my sons

Stephen Moore
The Wall Street Journal

For Kids

We know it is very hard to be a Kid

because

Life Is A Box.

That is, you may be loved, but you're also stuck
inside the Box,

that is the Home Box, the School Box, the Church Box and
the Neighborhood Box etc.

Besides which,

for all practical purposes, you have few rights,
little freedom, not much control and very little power -
except to ruin yourself.

So,

if you bounce off the walls of the box
(that is, the rules and regulations) we're gonna "getcha"

with criticism, punishment, medicine or jail

and so

your job is to figure out how to

Have Fun Inside The Box

and keep your eye on age 18 when you can get out of our
box and make your own Box.

Meanwhile,

skim-read newspapers and magazines and books;
play games with numbers, write a few letters of complaint,
avoid those electronic screens, and get a diploma.

Good Luck!

P.S.: It is usually easier to be an Adult than to be a Kid.

My teenage sons have been abducted, said Stephen Moore, and I want them back. Before last summer they were normal, sports-loving adolescents. But then my two boys discovered video-game systems such as Xbox and Wii and online war games involving multiple players such as World of Warcraft. In a matter of weeks, they were addicted, spending five or six hours at a time in front of a computer screen, blasting enemy war machines, killing virtual crooks, and withdrawing ever deeper into fantasy worlds. Their muscles have begun "to atrophy right before our very eyes."

even their skin has become pale "from lack of sunlight." When I tried to curtail their gaming, "they panted and raved and cursed and even threw things, almost as if demons had taken possession of them." I'm not the only parent who's concerned. Our neighbor's 12-year-old is so hooked on video games that he's stopped taking bathroom breaks, "with unfortunate results." Other parents report children who aren't taking showers, eating, or sleeping. "Computer games are the new crack cocaine," and I wish I'd never let one in the house. "A mind really is a terrible thing to waste."